

Customer Service Advice from Telstra

Extreme Weather events impact service in North Coast New South Wales

Telstra is working to manage the significant impact to Telstra services that has occurred as a result of a series of extreme weather events in the North Coast region of New South Wales on or about Monday 18 May 2009 through to Friday 22 May 2009.

Due to the effect of damage to the Telstra telecommunications network by heavy rainfall, flooding and damaging winds, there has been a significant increase in the number of Telstra services being reported as faulty. As a result, there has been some disruption to service and delays to normal installation and repair activities.

Telstra apologises to any affected customers.

Information as to the nature of these severe weather events can be sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM). Flash Flooding and damaging winds referred to in the BOM Severe Weather Warning issued for 19 May 2009 initially at 12:55 pm on Tuesday 19 May 2009; all of which were widely reported in the news media after the events.

Telstra has identified that the effect of these circumstances applies to approximately 1712 services. This number may increase as Telstra assesses the full affect of the extreme weather conditions. Based on current information, the resumption date of normal service operations is expected to be 9 June 2009. This date is indicative only; Telstra customers should anticipate that some further delays may occur. Telstra regrets any inconvenience caused to customers and thanks them for their patience while this work is being undertaken.

Telstra services encompassed in this exemption are; in the area bounded by and including, but is not limited to the area starting at Tweed Heads follow the coastline south to the border of the Broadwater National Park and then go west to Coraki, then southwest to the north eastern tip of the Bungawalbin National Park and follow the eastern border to the southern end of the national park, then go west through Rappville to Alice, then directly west to the Timbarra River and follow the river north to Tabulam then northwest to Taloom, then northeast through Urbenville to Woodenbong then directly north to the QLD/NSW border and follow the border east back to Tweed Heads. All suburbs and towns serviced by Telstra within these boundaries are encompassed in this exemption.

Services in the area mentioned above with phone numbers in the following number ranges may have been affected:

02 6621 2000	To	02 6649 7838	07 5536 1000	To	07 5536 9999
02 6661 3500	To	02 6689 9497	07 5590 1900	To	07 5599 9999
07 5513 0001	To	07 5524 9999			

As these circumstances were outside of Telstra's control, Telstra is claiming an extension to time frames applying under the *Telecommunications (Customer Service Guarantee) Standard 2000 (No.2)*. This means that Telstra is notifying customers that normal service time frames may not be met during the period of **20 May 2009 to 9 June 2009** inclusive (based on Telstra's estimated recovery schedule correct at the time of publication of this notice).

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility for a CSG payment under this notice, or would like us to reconsider whether the circumstances were a proper basis for claiming an exemption, you may contact us on the number displayed on your telephone account or alternatively on 132203 for service difficulties and faults or 132200 for sales, installations and billing- quoting CSG Exemption reference number **20090520-NSW-E-B-P-NORTH COAST**.

Copies of this notice are available on our Internet site at www.telstra.com.au/msd/ or you may request a copy by calling one of the Telstra numbers mentioned above.

If, after calling Telstra you are still not satisfied with the outcome, you have the option to raise the matter with the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO). Information on the TIO and contact details are available on the Internet (www.tio.com.au) and in the White Pages® directory.

