

Media Release

15 October, 2014

Sydney Trains network disrupted by major storm and flooding

Customers should allow for possible delays to normal services this morning following major storms and flooding in the Sydney metropolitan and Blue Mountains regions overnight.

All Sydney Trains metropolitan stations will be open, and all services running, but the NSW TrainLink service from Lithgow to Katoomba has been suspended.

The areas most affected by the conditions overnight were on the T2 Airport line, with repair and service restoration efforts focused on the area between Kingsgrove and Turella.

An Explorer train en route from Canberra to Central was stranded by flood waters at Bexley North on the T2 Airport line, with nine adults and three children aboard. They were evacuated by emergency services crew when it was safe to do so.

The T2 Airport line is open and operating, but customers could face some delays as Sydney Trains maintenance workers and emergency crews complete clean up works after the storm.

Train services between Lithgow and Katoomba have been suspended, and road closures along Bells Line Of Road and the Great Western Highway mean that no alternate service is available until further notice.

A very limited service will run from Katoomba to Sydney, and customers are advised to allow extra time for possible delays.

The T3 Bankstown line is operating to schedule, but four stations (Marrickville, Dulwich Hill, Hurlstone Park and Canterbury) will be without power. They will remain open, but without services such as lighting, ticket readers, gateways and customer information systems.

Sydney Trains Chief Executive Howard Collins said that maintenance teams had worked through the night to restore services and ensure the network was safe for morning operations.

"We experienced very challenging conditions through the night, with flooding across the inner south-west area," Mr Collins said. "Signalling and power supply was impacted in many areas, simultaneously, and lightning strikes and high winds continued to cause major difficulties.

"I would like to pay tribute to our staff and emergency services who fanned out across the network, assisting with stranded customers and restoring services to ensure we could keep Sydney moving this morning. This was the second night in a row of very tough conditions for many of these teams and the fact that the morning peak period has been able to proceed relatively unscathed is testimony to their dedication and efforts."

I would also like apologise to customers caught up in last night's disruption.

Sydney Trains Media Unit
02 9219 1285