



**Public Policy and Communications**

Executive Director Regulatory Affairs  
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Mr Robert Wright  
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Dear Mr Wright,

**Lightening Protection Costs in the TEA Model**

I refer to my letter to Michael Cosgrave dated 6 August 2008, accompanied by v1.1 of the TEA model, and a subsequent query you raised in relation to lightening protection costs.

Best practice requires voltage protection cassettes to be installed on the line side of the Main Distribution Frame (MDF) for all CAN cables terminating on the MDF. This protection is currently installed in all Telstra exchanges; and TEA includes this protection in all exchanges.

With regard to lightning protection at customer premises and in the network, the following procedures apply.

Telstra classifies geographic areas (at the Distribution Area level of granularity) with a high vulnerability to lightning strikes as either CLP or ELP. It is Telstra's practice and forward looking best practice to install lightning protection in these Distribution Areas. Similarly, the Tea Model only adds lightning protection in Distribution Areas classified as CLP or ELP (as a simplifying assumption, TEA does not include guard wire with lead-ins in ELP areas even though this is a component of best practices lightning protection). The TEA model (v1.1) includes lightening protection for 247,403 addresses out of a total of 7,283,646 lines, which is 3.4%.

Furthermore, in practice, if an area is designated as requiring lightning protection after service has been established, it is Telstra's practice to retrofit existing facilities with lightning protection whenever a technician works on the facilities (e.g. for faults, connections, alterations).

Yours sincerely,

Tony Warren  
Executive Director Regulatory Affairs  
Public Policy and Communications