

Media Statement

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Landry raises Stanage Bay mobile issues with key Ministers

Federal Member for Capricornia Michelle Landry has referred the Stanage Bay mobile phone issue to two key Federal Government Ministers.

The region has been experiencing mobile and internet network problems since thousands of troops descended on the area for the joint United States and Australian military Exercise Talisman Sabre.

The problem appears to stem from a large amount of soldiers converging on the area at once causing network congestion.

Ms Landry said local residents continue to raise concerns with her following a farm accident in which a man was seriously injured in the area yesterday, where mobile phones could not be used to call for help.

“Today I referred the issue to the Minister for Communications Malcolm Turnbull and the Assistant Minister for Defence Stuart Robert because it is one that needs to be raised at higher levels,” Ms Landry said.

“Following the accident, which I agree is a serious issue for the rural community, I have also had further discussion with Telstra and senior defence leaders involved in Exercise Talisman Sabre.

“Telstra is doing a good job in communicating with some of the local people who have raised network issues and continue to work hard to ensure services return to normal,” she said.

Ms Landry has also spoken to the U.S General in charge of the defence operation and the Lieutenant Colonel in charge of logistics.

“Defence now advise that Exercise Talisman Sabre has officially begun; and that as a result troops are required to maintain a mobile phone black out (meaning they cannot use their phones as part of the operation to maintain their cover) and they would expect congestion to ease in the network.”

Ms Landry has been proactive in raising the issue with Telstra and the Department of Defence the since it came to her attention last week.

She said both Telstra and Defence acknowledged that additional planning with regard to mobile networks would be considered ahead of the next Talisman Sabre.

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