



Media statement

8 June 2016

Basslink interconnector update

Basslink is pleased to announce that the third and final joint of the cable repair has now been completed and successfully tested. The cable bight has also been laid and the entire length of the single piece of cable is currently on the seabed.

The Basslink team will shortly commence a range of land-based tests of both the electricity interconnector as well as the fibre optic telecommunications cable, and all associated equipment on either side of Bass Strait. The cable repair vessel is currently in Bell Bay changing over the crew in anticipation of reburying the cable. These tests and reburial of the cable will be conducted over the next week, with a view to return the electricity interconnector and the telecommunications cable to service before the end of June, subject to any delays due to unforeseen circumstances.

Chief Executive Malcolm Eccles said it was a relief that the weather conditions allowed this final stretch of the jointing work to be completed with minimal interruption and recognised the enormous efforts of the repair team.

“There has been well over one hundred people working incredibly hard at sea and on land to rectify the fault,” he said. “It has been an extremely challenging six months, and we are grateful to have had such a committed team working with us.”

“Subject to some final testing and satisfactory weather conditions, we will rebury the cable in the next few days, and re-commission our converter stations at George Town and Loy Yang with a view to return both the electricity interconnector and the telecommunications cable to service as soon as possible,” said Eccles.

Basslink continues to update its key stakeholders, Hydro Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government, of the repair activities on a regular basis. A Hydro Tasmania investigator has also been on the cable repair vessel for much of its time at sea.

- Ends -

For further media enquiries on Basslink, please contact:

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About Basslink www.basslink.com.au

The Basslink Interconnector enhances security of supply on both sides of Bass Strait; protecting Tasmania against the risk of drought-constrained energy shortages while providing Victoria and southern states with secure renewable energy during times of peak demand. The Basslink Interconnector is the world's second longest undersea electricity cable. Owned by Keppel Infrastructure Trust, Basslink delivers excellence in the areas of safety, reliability and performance.

Basslink has a number of fibre optic assets which carry high speed telecommunication traffic. Basslink Telecoms offers a range of wholesale transmission services between Tasmania and Victoria.