



Media Statement

12 March 2016

Basslink interconnector repair progresses

Basslink has announced that it has successfully cut the cable at approximately 9.15pm yesterday evening. Although the probable fault location was refined and the cut location was affirmed four days ago, the repair teams were only able to proceed with the cut due to bad weather in the Bass Strait over the past three days.

The repair teams will continue with the next steps of the fault removal phase, which involves additional testing of each length of the cut cable in order to ultimately remove the faulty section. This phase is expected to take around two weeks to complete, although it may be complicated by weather conditions.

Based on present weather forecasts, the works may be interrupted by bad weather early Tuesday morning. This phase of works is extremely sensitive to weather conditions as waves and swell create a hazard to the repair team and the cables.

“After working round the clock since the outage, we are pleased to reach this important milestone. Having been able to refine the probable fault location, we have made the first cut to the cable,” said Mr Malcolm Eccles, CEO of Basslink.

Once capped, the cable ends will remain on the seabed while the *Ile de Re* returns to Geelong, where the necessary equipment and specialist jointing personnel will join the crew for the next most critical phase of the repair campaign, which will involve reconnecting the two ends of the cable via a section of new cable.

Based on current best estimates, and allowing contingency for weather and other unforeseeable conditions, it is expected that the interconnector will be operational again in late May. Naturally, every effort will be made to ensure the return to service date is as soon as possible.

In the meantime, Basslink will continue to update its key stakeholders, Hydro Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government, of the repair activities on a regular basis. A Hydro Tasmania observer appointed by the State continues to be present on the *Ile de Re* at all times when at sea.

- Ends -

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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.