



# Media statement

24 May 2016

## Basslink interconnector update

Basslink is pleased to report that its cable repair vessel, the *Ile De Re*, has made progress since leaving the Port of Geelong on 19 May and arriving at the fault location last Friday (20 May). The first two days at the fault location were spent completing work to assist in laying the cable bight.

Following a few days of unfavourable weather conditions since Sunday, it is expected that splicing will commence for the first of two joints today once weather conditions improve and there is a clear weather window in which to carry out the works.

More than 20 days have been lost to weather since the first joint was completed.

Given the repair has around 20 days of marine-based work remaining which will be directly affected by any changes in weather conditions, Basslink needs to allow for additional contingency in the timeline for the cable's return to service. As a result, Basslink has advised Hydro Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government that the anticipated return to service date is now late June. Basslink has also updated AEMO on this change in accordance with market regulations.

Once all the joints have been completed, it is anticipated that Basslink will return to full operations within a week.

- Ends -

**For further media enquiries on Basslink, please contact:**

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**About Basslink** [www.basslink.com.au](http://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.