



Media Statement

13 March 2016

Basslink interconnector update

Since cutting the cable on Friday night (11 March), Basslink has now capped the cable and determined the fault to be located in the northern section.

Current weather conditions have allowed for the team to reach this stage. However, the repair teams have now halted additional works due to insufficient time to safely conduct repair works on the cable as the weather is expected to worsen this evening. Current forecasts show that the weather is not expected to improve until noon on Thursday, 17 March at the earliest.

During this time, the *Ile de Re* will travel back to Geelong and undertake crew changes before returning to the location of repair works by Thursday noon.

Consistent with previous advice, 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 -

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.