



Media Statement

12 February 2016

Basslink interconnector update

Work continues in Bass Strait with the Basslink team presently doing its best to narrow down the fault location on the cable.

Basslink has today advised the Tasmanian Government and Hydro Tasmania that it will take longer than expected to locate and repair the fault as it is proving far more difficult to narrow the fault area than anticipated. The lack of an external visual of the cable fault due to the silty and sandy seabed conditions has also contributed to the longer period.

In view of these circumstances and given that the type of fault Basslink is dealing with is highly complex, concealed and difficult to pinpoint, further testing is required to narrow down the fault location. This will take time, despite Basslink running a 24-hour repair operation. Basslink is also consulting leading experts from around the world to assist in this project.

The fault location has been narrowed down to a few kilometres' length on the 300km cable. Basslink has identified that there is only one fault and it is not in one of the cable joints.

Basslink has undertaken extensive testing to date to determine the fault location, including Time Domain Reflectometry, subsea tone location techniques and Optical Time Domain Reflectometry tests. Further subsea tone location data sets are being obtained.

The current available data does not provide sufficient information to enable the cable to be cut in the next few days as hoped. Basslink and its team of experts will shortly be undertaking additional tests which may assist in corroborating the fault location and conduct further analysis, to have more confidence around the cable fault location prior to making the decision to cut the cable. This critical decision will be made on the best available information and Basslink will continue to consult with the Tasmanian Government and Hydro Tasmania to keep them updated.

In addition to the continued testing to narrow down the fault location, Basslink is concurrently progressing with deburial and undertaking a visual inspection of the cable to assist with identification of the specific fault location, which is complicated by the seabed condition.

Given the complexity of the work underway, Basslink plans to issue a revised timeline next week. In the meantime, Basslink undertakes to continue to work around the clock to rectify this issue as soon as possible and provide updates when there are developments.

- Ends -



Notes to editors:

Glossary

Time-Domain Reflectometer	An electronic instrument that uses time domain reflectometry to characterise and locate faults in metallic cables
Optical Time-Domain Reflectometer	An instrument that analyses the light loss in an optical fibre

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.