

Saturday, April 29, 2006

BASSLINK GOES LIVE

The 360 kilometre Basslink electricity interconnector between Tasmania and Victoria is fully operational.

National Grid Australia Managing Director, Bill Russell, said the April 30 deadline had been met with electricity now flowing across the world's longest HVDC sub-sea cable.

“Construction is complete, the cable has passed all its tests and yesterday the Project Inspector issued the taking over certificate. This means Basslink meets all contractual obligations to our customer Hydro Tasmania.

“As of midnight the \$780 million Basslink interconnector was commercially available. Basslink can now supply mainland Australia with secure renewable energy and assist Tasmania during its winter peak.

“This is the culmination of over seven years hard work. Hydro Tasmania and our contractors, along with the local construction companies, communities, industry and environment groups on both sides of Bass Strait have put in a massive effort to meet the revised time line and have done so with an enviable safety record.

I would like to pay tribute to these people and the National Grid Australia team and all our supply chain partners in getting this historic project operating,” Mr Russell said.

Basslink can provide up to 600MW of hydro electricity to mainland Australia and over 300MW of electricity into Tasmania.

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***Editors Please Note: An official opening ceremony is planned for mid May.**