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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### **Basslink Telecoms carries its first broadband traffic to Tasmania**

Basslink Telecoms is delighted to announce that traffic is flowing on the Melbourne-Hobart fibre optic link, following an extensive testing and commissioning process completed in recent days.

Basslink Telecoms has today carried the first commercial broadband signal on the fibre optic cables contained within the subsea interconnector. This marks the complete commercialisation of Tasmania's on-island fibre network and Basslink fibre optic which links Tasmania to the mainland.

Today's announcement brings increased competition to Tasmanian broadband telecommunications. For the first time, Tasmanians will be able to choose a provider to carry high bandwidth telecommunications across the fibre link between Tasmania and the mainland.

Basslink CEO Malcolm Eccles said, "Basslink and its shareholder CitySpring Infrastructure Trust are pleased to deliver this vital new facility to serve the Tasmanian community and economy.

"We have made a major investment to enable the Basslink interconnector to carry high bandwidth telecommunications traffic.

"Today's announcement marks the future for Tasmanian Broadband telecommunication and further highlights the significance of the Basslink interconnector as one of the State's key infrastructure assets.

"We look forward to working with our partners in delivering broadband competition to Tasmania," said Mr Eccles.

The new network brings infrastructure-based competition in backhaul to Tasmanian businesses and households, giving much greater access to high capacity broadband services.

Basslink Telecoms is confident that competition introduced on the route will generate competitive backhaul prices, and see the cost of servicing Tasmania declines for Broadband providers and resellers continuing to decline as the market becomes more competitive. The new network also provides a substantial boost to Tasmanian-based providers of value-added services such as content development and applications development.

A number of ISP's have signed up and will be utilising Basslink Telecoms backhaul.

"Basslink Telecoms remains in discussion with a number of other customers", General Manager Basslink Telecoms Michael Coates said.

"We are very pleased to be up and running and welcoming a number of quality ISP's onto the Basslink backhaul capacity," said Mr Coates.

"Our focus for the past six months has been on delivering the infrastructure, and ensuring all project works, testing and commissioning run smoothly. Now the activation of the capacity is a reality. We expect that more ISP's will come on board as customers."

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

Basslink is an historic Australian project that enables the trade of electricity between Tasmania and the mainland, providing secure, renewable energy and telecommunications services. The Basslink interconnector runs from Loy Yang in Gippsland, Victoria, across Bass Strait to Bell Bay in northern Tasmania. The 360km Basslink interconnector incorporates the longest submarine power cable in the world. Basslink has the capacity to export up to a maximum of 594 MW of power from Tasmania to Victoria, and import of 478 MW to Tasmania, with a continuous rating of 478 MW in each direction. Singapore-based CitySpring Infrastructure Trust is the owner and operator of Basslink. The interconnector is a \$780 million project and one of the largest infrastructure projects of its type ever undertaken in Australia. Basslink continues to provide Tasmania with enhanced security of electricity supply and is working to drought-proof the state.

**For further information about Basslink, please contact:**

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