



## **Media Statement**

Wednesday 21 April, 2010

### **Basslink outage**

The Basslink interconnector was taken out of service following a problem in the valve hall at the George Town Converter Station in Tasmania on Saturday 17 April.

The outage was caused by the failure of a valve-cooling pipe component in the valve hall causing a leak of demineralised water. The resultant leak caused a corona discharge which caused damage to thyristor valve equipment.

Over the weekend, Basslink assembled a team of experts who have been working around the clock to identify the problem, assess the damage and repair the fibres.

At this stage, Basslink anticipates it will be able to make repairs using existing spare parts.

Basslink CEO, Malcolm Eccles, stated "It is anticipated that if all goes well, Basslink will resume normal operations by 12pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April. However all endeavours will be used to try and reduce this return to service date.

The issue does not affect the fibre-optic capacity of Basslink Telecoms.

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#### **For further media enquiries, please contact:**

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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 second 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. Basslink is part of CitySpring Infrastructure Trust, a Singapore listed entity. Basslink is the owner and operator of the Basslink HVdc Interconnector and Basslink Telecoms. 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.

