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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### **BASSLINK TELECOMS ON TRACK FOR JUNE LAUNCH**

**- FIRST CONNECTION ACROSS BASS STRAIT ACHIEVED -**

Basslink Telecoms has today confirmed that it continues to anticipate the first customer services will be flowing before the end of June.

Basslink CEO Malcolm Eccles said that the project had reached a major milestone in recent days.

"We are delighted to report that Basslink has made its first connection between Loy Yang (Vic) and Tasmania utilizing the fibre optic cable," he said. "The section between the Converter Stations in Loy Yang (Vic) and Georgetown (Tas) is now operational with the first 10Gbps wavelength active as part of initial testing. Additional wavelengths are being tested and commissioned in coming weeks.

"A key milestone in the overall project has been the installation and commissioning of Raman Amplifiers at either end of the subsea cable. There are no undersea repeaters the length of Basslink Strait. Amplifiers are required to boost the laser "signal" strength across the Strait for a distance of approximately 300km. "

Mr Eccles said the initial connection was a big milestone in the implementation program embarked on by Basslink in November last year and that he was confident the Basslink fibre optic will be fully operational by June.

"This is a final step in the commercialization of Basslink Telecoms. We are very close to completion and we expect to be carrying traffic by the end of June," said Eccles.

General Manager of Basslink Telecoms, Michael Coates said the fibre optics contained in the subsea interconnector were now lit.

"This means the Tasmanian end is now connected to the mainland and is ready to receive Basslink traffic into Hobart," he said.

"The implementation phase is close to completion with only the Victorian land backhaul sections yet to be operational. This section remains our project completion priority, and while on a tight timeframe, we are confident it will be completed to plan, and the network will be operational and carrying customer traffic by the end of June, " said Coates.

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“We are working hard to complete the commissioning and testing, and have in place a rigorous project management process to ensure this outcome. As with many technical projects of this nature, we have had to overcome a number of unforeseen challenges with the project, but remain confident that these are now behind us.”

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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.

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