



# Media Statement

13 May 2016

## Basslink interconnector update

Due to unfavourable weather conditions, the scheduled departure of the cable repair vessel the *Ille De Re* from Geelong to the fault location has again been delayed. The vessel has been on stand-by to depart since 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016, but has been unable to leave due to severe weather conditions.

Based on current weather forecasts, it is estimated that the earliest the vessel will be able to depart is early next week.

As previously advised, the jointing works take place on the deck of the vessel and are highly susceptible to weather conditions. There are two joints to be completed, and each joint requires a window of relatively calm sea conditions and clear weather of six continuous days to allow such works to be completed safely. Bad weather or rough sea state can damage the cable, result in abortive jointing works or pose unnecessary occupational, health and safety risks for the repair crew.

At this stage, Basslink continues to advise a return to service date of mid-June. However, if there are further prolonged delays, the allocated contingency days will be exhausted and the return to service date will be extended.

Basslink continues to update its key stakeholders, Hydro Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government, of the repair activities on a regular basis.

- Ends -

**For further media enquiries on Basslink, please contact:**

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