



# Media Statement

3 May 2016

## Basslink interconnector update

The severe weather conditions that have hit Victoria and Tasmania have impacted the Basslink repair project, forcing the closure of the Port of Geelong today until further notice, and preventing the cable repair vessel from returning to the fault location. In addition, gale force warnings for Bass Strait have been issued by the Bureau of Meteorology for Wednesday.

Although the *Ile de Re* was scheduled to return to the cable repair location today, with the port closure and the worsening weather conditions, it is now currently expected to return to the cable repair location sometime next week. The scheduled departure today was also postponed from last Friday 29 April, also due to bad weather in Bass Strait.

Basslink's previously advised mid-June return to service date remains unchanged at this stage, however the timeline may need to be revised if poor weather extends past allocated contingency days.

Basslink is retaining a watching brief on the weather. An update on when to depart will be made once the forecast weather window is sufficiently clear for the team to carry out jointing works.

The next step in the repair campaign is to complete the final two joints and lay the remaining cable and bight\*. As previously advised, the jointing works take place on the deck of the vessel and are highly susceptible to weather conditions. Each joint will require 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.

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

*\* The bight is the loop of extra cable that is required to allow the jointing works to be conducted on the surface. It is anticipated that this will be approximately 240m, or three times water depth.*

- 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.