

MEDIA STATEMENT

Thursday, 14 January 2016

On Sunday, 20 December 2015 at approximately 15:03 Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT), a fault occurred on the Basslink Interconnector running between Victoria and Tasmania, separating Tasmania from the National Electricity Market. The interconnector has remained out of service since this time.

According to a statement released today by the asset owner, Basslink, the interconnector is expected to return to service on 19 March 2016.

Based on short-term modelling until 1 April 2016, there are no forecast electricity generation supply shortfalls in Victoria or Tasmania as a result of the Basslink Interconnector outage.

At the time of the incident, approximately 254 megawatts from four large industrial customers within Tasmania were disconnected under the Frequency Control Special Protection Scheme, which protects the broader Tasmanian network. This load was restored within 30 minutes.

This fault has not resulted in any electricity supply disruptions to Victorian or Tasmanian residential or commercial customers to date.

AEMO will continue to monitor forecast electricity supply and demand in both states over the short term and beyond, and is working with Basslink and the Victorian and Tasmanian state governments to ensure the appropriate arrangements are in place while the fault is being resolved.

ENDS

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