

Your ref:  
Our Ref:

Senders Name:  
Senders Title:

Date: Tuesday, 13 September 2016

Phone: +61 3 9607 4700  
Fax: +61 3 9607 4750  
Email  
Via:

The Secretary  
The Energy Security Taskforce Secretariat  
C/- The Department of State Growth  
GPO Box 536  
HOBART TAS 7001

By Email : [energysecuritytaskforce@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:energysecuritytaskforce@stategrowth.tas.gov.au)

Dear Secretary

**SUBMISSION: TASMANIAN ENERGY SECURITY TASKFORCE  
CONSULTATION PAPER AUGUST 2016**

Thank you for the opportunity of making a submission to the Taskforce.

Basslink Pty Ltd (**BPL**) owns and operates the Basslink interconnector. Our staff has deep experience in HVDC interconnectors and power systems not only in Australia but from experience in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

**Relevant Questions**

We note that in the above consultation paper the Taskforce raises two questions of relevance to BPL:

**Question 6:** What potential energy security solutions should the Taskforce consider?

**Question 9:** What economic opportunities and risks are there for Tasmania associated with the second Bass-Strait interconnector, and how would it improve Tasmania's energy security?

**Second Bass Strait Interconnector**

BPL wishes to respond to these 2 questions in relation to the possibility of a second Bass Strait HVDC interconnector.

The building of an HVDC interconnector system is expensive and complex. The operation of an HVDC interconnector system is highly complex. The interaction of an HVDC system with the networks to which it is connected is also highly complex. The potential interaction that a second Bass Strait interconnector would have with the networks in both Victoria and Tasmania would need very careful analysis.

Further, BPL considers that a second Bass Strait interconnector will amplify significant pre-existing issues about the stability of the Tasmanian electricity grid.

The current Tasmanian grid instability has been a matter that Basslink has been discussing with TasNetworks and AEMO. A second Bass Strait interconnector will only exacerbate this grid instability.

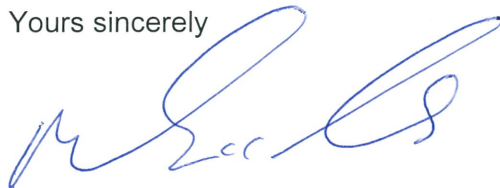
In BPL's view the costs of strengthening the Tasmanian network to accommodate a second interconnector will be substantial.

Also, BPL considers that the protection systems needed to manage the potential outage of the Basslink Interconnector and another interconnector would be highly complex and expensive.

In addition, BPL has existing agreements with the State of Tasmania, Hydro Tasmania and TasNetworks. In Basslink's view, the process for consideration of whether a second interconnector is viable would need to include a process that involved verification and assurances that the second interconnector would not adversely interfere with the existing contractual relationships of BPL nor with the amenity of the Basslink interconnector as provided to the State of Tasmania and Hydro Tasmania.

We trust the above input is of assistance to your consideration of a second Bass Strait Interconnector.

Yours sincerely



**Malcolm Eccles**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Basslink Pty Ltd