

History Development & Approvals:

- A link between Tasmania and Victoria was discussed as long ago as the 1960's
- In the late 1990's the State of Tasmania commenced a process to select a developer for the project. National Grid was awarded the project in early 2000 and immediately commenced work on the extensive approvals required for the project. The approvals were finally granted in September 2002. The major changes as a result of the approvals process were the introduction of a metallic return cable and an amended land route in Victoria.

Construction Contract:

- All design & Construction performed by Siemens & Prysmian

History Construction:

- Notice to Proceed was issued to the construction contractors, a consortium of Prysmian and Siemens in November 2002. Cable manufacture commenced immediately and in parallel with this Siemens commenced the detailed engineering and design process. The construction process was reviewed at every stage by a Project Inspector who was appointed by the State of Tasmania.
- The cables weighed a total of nearly 20,000 tonnes and were laid in three campaigns due the maximum capacity of the vessel being 7,000 tonnes.
- Construction went very much to plan aside from two notable issues.
- Firstly, the vessel carrying the converter transformers lost its rudder in the Great Australian Bight in October 2004 and the transformers were subsequently found to have been damaged during the sea-voyage.
- Secondly, the submarine cable suffered 5 cable faults during final testing. All of these were repaired and additional testing was completed to the satisfaction of the Project Inspector.

History Commissioning & Beyond:

- Despite these set-backs commissioning commenced only two months behind schedule and the site-tests were completed by the end of January 2006.
- The additional off-site cable testing delayed Taking-Over and hence commencement of commercial operations until 28th April 2006.
- The last milestone under the Development Agreement was Project Completion, this required operation of Basslink in accordance with the performance standards for a minimum period of 6 months. This milestone was certified by the Project Inspector in early January 2007

Primary Operational Relationships:

- This slide shows the primary relationships that are managed by BPL
- The purpose of the interconnector is to allow Hydro Tasmania to trade in the National Electricity Market
- Hydro-Tasmania is the Government Business Enterprise that holds the primary contractual relationship with BPL. BPL does not trade in the market but is paid a facility fee by Hydro Tasmania.
- BPL also has direct contractual relationships with the State; the Treasury Department are responsible for these. At a working level Hydro act as the agent of the State in many respects and specifically they are the State's agent under the Operations Agreement.
- The National Electrical Market is managed by NEMMCO, the market participants are highlighted in red
- Vencorp, SPAusnet and Transend are all parties that we have connection or use of system agreements with.
- BPL's ongoing relationship with Siemens and Prysmian extends to warranty and a 3rd line support arrangement with Siemens