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Tasmanian Electronic Commerce Centre Pty Ltd

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ATTENTION: News Directors, Chiefs of Staff

TECC WELCOMES PREMIER BARTLETT'S BASSLINK OPTIC FIBRE ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr John McCann, CEO of the TECC today welcomed the the Premier's statement relating to the commercial agreement that has been secured between the Tasmanian government and CitySpring, owners of Basslink.

"I warmly congratulate Premier Bartlett and his government on achieving this vital outcome for the benefit the Tasmanian community and business" said Mr McCann. "The TECC has been involved for the last 12 years in actively promoting the benefits of ecommerce and the need to take new business opportunities in the digital era via investment in profound, strategic broadband infrastructure developments such as Basslink".

- "OECD studies have shown that where communities have access to competitive, open broadband, innovation thrives in both traditional and information based industries.
- The significance of today's announcement, as part of the overall strategy to give Tasmania a communications network equal to any in the world cannot be underestimated. Increased competition will have an immediate impact for businesses and households.
- Within a very short period, the TECC expects the significant investment and new businesses opportunities coming to Tasmania that in the past simply could not have been contemplated. The TECC will be working hard to build on this opportunity

"Indeed, the TECC is actively working and collaborating with local, State and Federal governments through the Clever Networks (Broadband Development Network) program, to bring about broadband development infrastructure in regional Tasmania. At the wholesale level, the ability to have an alternative fibre optic path for open competitive access by other telecommunications and ISP's is to applauded. It can only benefit Tasmania in the long run." said McCann

John McCann will be attending the launch and is available for comment or questions on Ph 0419 322 551 or email at mccann@tecc.com.au

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