

Office of the Commissioner for Kangaroo Island

MEDIA RELEASE

Energy Security - Community Forum

The recent failure of *Basslink*, the undersea electricity cable that connects Tasmania, to the mainland has highlighted how vulnerable island economies can be if key infrastructure fails. The *Basslink* cable is less than 10 years old but has reportedly failed around 100km offshore and will be extremely costly to repair.

The Commissioner for Kangaroo Island Wendy Campana has invited SA Power Networks to update the community on their approach to Kangaroo Island's energy security.

"SA Power Networks has recently updated its Emergency Response Plan should our cable to the mainland fail and has been successful in obtaining the Australian Energy Regulator's approval to invest in Kangaroo Island's energy security before our cable fails. Our cable was installed in 1993 and has a design life of 30 years" said Wendy Campana.

SA Power Networks will explain the process they will go through to consider alternatives – not just a simple duplicate of the existing cable - in order to ensure a secure electricity supply for KI.

Wendy Campana said that "In addition to hearing an update from SA Power Networks, the 9 March Forum will also provide:

- An update on the work of the Commissioner's Energy Security Focus Group;
- Discuss a draft document prepared by the Focus Group which sets out key energy requirements on the Island – feedback on the document will be sought;
- An overview from Mayor Peter Clements about his vision for Renewable Energy on Kangaroo Island and the vital role of community leadership in forging a more sustainable development path for KI."

The Forum will be held 9 March, from 2 – 4pm in the Council Chambers, Kingscote.