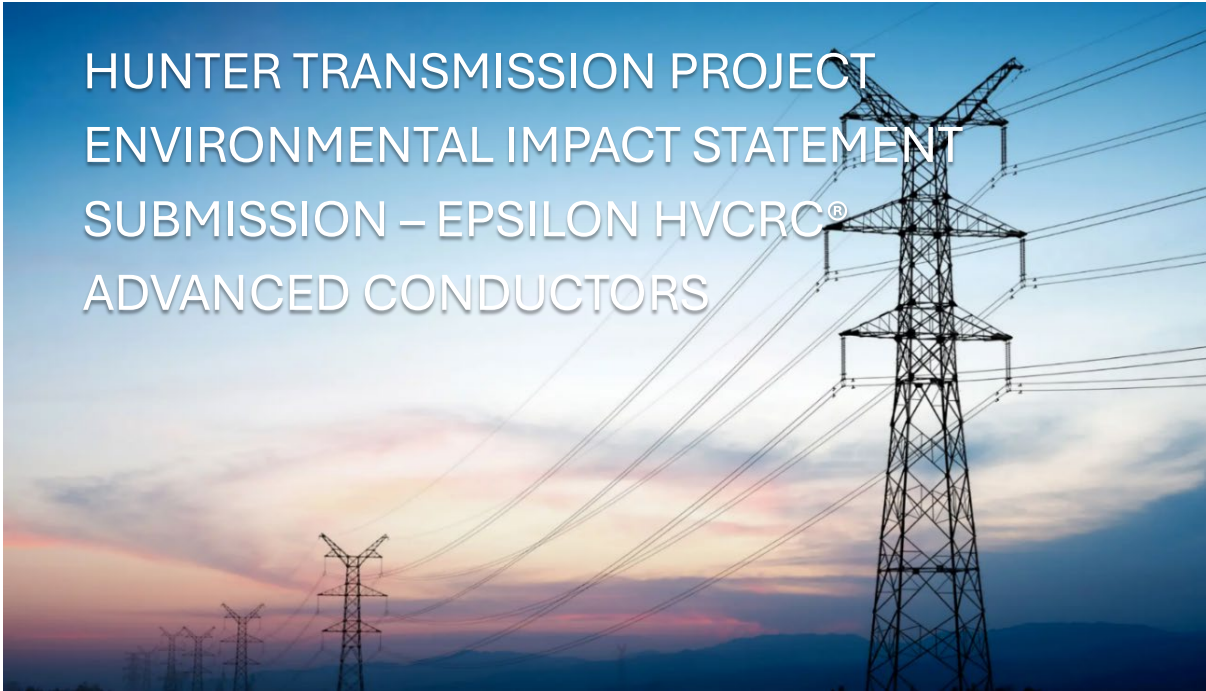




HUNTER TRANSMISSION PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SUBMISSION – EPSILON HVCRC® ADVANCED CONDUCTORS

As part of the Environmental Impact Statement Review Process for the Hunter Transmission Project, Xatech International in association with Epsilon Cable, provide the following summary of potential benefits for both the project and the NSW HV Grid. These benefits are based on the selection of latest conductor technology in lieu of reliance on existing legacy technology previously and currently being deployed as part of the expansion of the NSW HV Grid.

The benefits available from the selection of latest advance conductor technology such as Epsilon's HVCRC® HTLS Conductors include:

- Future proofing of the investment through increased capacity of HTLS Conductors allowing the connection of new sources of renewable energy without further investment of the core transmission line,
- Greater flexibility in operation of the transmission line to accommodate surges in renewable energy generation and electricity demand.
- Opportunity to optimise the design of the transmission project to mitigate impact on the environment, local communities and other land use.
- Improved operational efficiency through a reduction in transmission losses in comparison to legacy conductor technologies on a “like for like” basis.
- Improved infrastructure resilience during adverse weather events such as periods of elevated ambient temperatures and high wind as well as bushfires impacting the transmission line.

Xatech International Pty Ltd – Epsilon Cable Representative

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Epsilon HVCRC® Advanced Conductor technology incorporates a composite core manufactured using the latest pultrusion technology. The advantages the composite core provides include a reduced core weight, increased strength, no thermal expansion and non-corrosion.

These attributes are the basis for both increased conductor capacity and optimisation of transmission tower design (either reduced tower size or larger spans reducing number of towers required).

It is acknowledged that the procurement cost of latest technology advance conductors can be higher than legacy technologies, however this additional procurement cost can be offset through savings in design of the transmission line and a reduction in operating transmission losses. When additional transmission capacity is required, due to fluctuations in renewable energy generation and demand, the advanced conductor provides the capacity flexibility to meet this requirement and when transmission requirement returns to planned capacity, transmission losses are lower when compared to legacy conductor technology thus providing the operator/ consumer a double benefit.

As indicated the selection of advanced conductors can provide a range of economic and environmental advantages for the important Hunter Transmission Project and by utilising the inherent strength and attributes of these conductors, the design of the transmission line can be optimised to mitigate the impact of the project on the environment, local communities and other land users as described in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Xatech International Pty Ltd and Epsilon Cable are committed to provide assistance to the proponents of this transmission project for the selection of an appropriate advanced conductor and optimisation of design based on this technology.