

# Retired Tram Strategy



# The history

- ▶ In the early 1990s there was an outcry about the loss of Melbourne's iconic W class trams, led largely by a group affiliated with the National Trust. They were not connected to any of the tram museums.
- ▶ They gained the support of the then Minister of Transport, who in the mid 1990s promised that no more W class trams would be scrapped or sold, and suggested a commercial operation be set up to run heritage tram services. Several trams were acquired or set aside for this project.
- ▶ Between that period and the redevelopment of Preston Workshops to include New Preston Depot, around 240 trams were placed in storage at the old railway carriage shops at Newport (the "East Block").
- ▶ Several attempts were made to deal with the issue over the last 10 or so years.



# Trams in Storage East Block, Newport



- ▶ There was an audit of all retired trams, including all City Circle and Restaurant trams, conducted 2016 to 2017

# Stakeholder Reference Group

- ▶ A Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) was formed, by invitation from the Minister for Transport, with representatives from
- ▶ VicTrack,
- ▶ Public Transport Victoria (PTV),
- ▶ Transport for Victoria,
- ▶ Yarra Trams,
- ▶ Heritage Victoria,
- ▶ Visit Victoria,
- ▶ Creative Victoria,
- ▶ Rail Tram Bus Union (RTBU),
- ▶ Local Government,
- ▶ Council of Tramways Museums of Australasia
- ▶ Community



# Stakeholder Reference Group

## Developed:

- ▶ Retired Tram Strategy
- ▶ Communications and Engagement Strategy.
- ▶ Expression of Interest, Selection Criteria & Weighting
- ▶ Allocation Process

## Ensuring that:

- ▶ City Circle is maintained
- ▶ Historically significant trams are preserved
- ▶ Transporting art trams returned to the community in some way
- ▶ Trams are preserved for future gifting

All details are published on the VicTrack website at:

<https://victrack.com.au/trams>

# Telling the story

<https://youtu.be/8tBHpocaJ1U>

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers are warned that the following program may contain images and voices of deceased persons

# Allocation by potential use

Qty	Condition/type	Potential for re-purpose
14	Operational	City Circle Tram
3	Operational	Colonial Restaurant Tram
20	Art trams	Offered to artist, housed at galleries/sculpture parks, universities, gifted or sold by public auction.
6	Privately owned	
11	Historic significance	Offered to heritage tramway museums
25	Good condition	Preserved for future W8 upgrade or gifting
158	Varying condition EOI and Spare Parts	Expressions of interest (EOI) process and Donor Trams
237		Total

# Requests from Museums:

Class	Fleet numbers
W5	685 772 821 826
SW5	681 840
SW6	850 857
Z2	101
B1	2001

*This table does not include privately owned trams stored at Newport.*

- ▶ “All trams identified as having historical significance will be offered to museums under an Expression of Interest process targeting these organisations. Trams will be issued to these organisations based on the merit of the application and will consider:
  - ▶ The intended use being restoration to operational status or static display;
  - ▶ Timeframe for restoration; and
  - ▶ Ensuring ongoing community access.
- ▶ The cost of transport of the tram will be supported by the State only for those museums located in Melbourne and regional Victoria. Any historic tram not requested by an organisation will remain in storage.
- ▶ Historic trams should be stored inside and restored to an appropriately high standard. Where an external site is proposed, a concrete slab and roof are required to protect and preserve the tram. The storage and maintenance obligations will be clearly communicated as part of the ownership of an historic tram.”

# Currently Preserved in Museums

Location	Class											Total
	W	W1	W2	SW2	W3	W4	W5	SW5	W6	SW6	W7	
Victoria	2	2	5	1	3	3	4	3	1	7	3	34
Australia			6	1		1	1	1	1		2	13
International			20				1			7	1	29
<b>Total</b>												<b>76</b>

Historic trams, particularly W Class trams, are already well represented in Victoria in five museums.

Four of these museums are members of COTMA, the other is the Tramway Museum Society of Victoria (TMSV). There are currently 34 W Class trams preserved in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

All sub classes are available to be viewed by the public and have been fully restored to either operable or static condition.

# Transporting Art Trams



Artists and artists' estates have been contacted to discuss their preferences for the future of the tram and more specifically how the artwork should be preserved. There is a general preference that the artwork is accessible to the community in some way and this will continue to be co-ordinated with Creative Victoria.

# The EOI process

- ▶ An EOI process was conducted under VicTrack's Procurement Policy and Principles where private individuals, community organisations and companies applied to acquire a retired tram.
- ▶ There were many more requests than available trams.
- ▶ An independent panel considered each application on its merits and scored them according to published selection criteria.
- ▶ The independent panel scores were then sent to a separate tram allocation panel who matched requests to available trams.
- ▶ All work was done in an anonymous manner with the identity of the requesting groups redacted.
- ▶ Outcomes will be announced by the end of September.

# Parts and remaining trams

- ▶ Some trams have been identified as ‘donors’ and will be stripped for spares.
- ▶ COTMA has had an input into identifying important parts.
- ▶ Part management policy and process is yet to be decided.
- ▶ I don’t expect ‘stockpiles’ by individual museums to be supported.
- ▶ The 25 trams set aside for W8 style upgrade and possible future ‘gifting’ will be stored by VicTrack.