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# Piece of public transport history to be preserved

by Kayla Walsh — July 11, 2025 in [light rail](#), [Rail industry news \(Australia, New Zealand\)](#)

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The tram was transported from Yarra Trams' New Preston Depot to Ballarat by truck. Image: Brenden Schonfelder and Lynley Quedley

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A piece of Victorian public transport history is being preserved with the first Z3 tram donated to the Ballarat Tramway Museum.

Longer-serving trams are gradually being retired as Yarra Trams prepares to move to the more modern and accessible G Class trams.

Tram Z3.116 was the first of its fleet, built in 1979 at Dandenong South by Comeng (now part of Alstom). It is also the first Z3 class tram to retire.

The Dandenong site has been a key part of Victoria's manufacturing sector for decades.

At this site, 100 E Class trams were built between 2013 and 2021, as well as 230 trams across the Z1, Z2 and Z3 classes between 1975 and 1984.

Several significant refurbishments have taken place in the decades since to keep the tram fleet in good condition to continue passenger service.

The first Z3 tram was donated to the Ballarat Tramway Museum by VicTrack after being maintained by Yarra Trams. It was transported from Yarra Trams' New Preston Depot to Ballarat.

Paul Mong, President of the Ballarat Tramway Museum, said the museum is delighted with the new addition.

"The Ballarat Tramway Museum is now home to the first retired Z3 tram, set to be preserved for future generations of public transport enthusiasts to enjoy for years to come.

"This important piece of Victorian rolling stock history has been added to our collection which dates back to 1887 – when horse-drawn trams travelled through the streets of Ballarat."

The Victorian Government recently made the largest ever investment in new trams in Australia, with \$1.85 billion in funding to build 100 low-floor Next Generation G Class Trams and a new tram maintenance and stabling facility in Maidstone.


The new tram fleet will join around 200 low floor trams (C, D and E Class) that are already on the network.

The G Class trams are due to start testing on the network later this year, and Yarra Trams said they will provide significant benefits to passengers, including improved accessibility features.

"The new trams will enable the retirement of some of our longest-serving high-floor trams from the Z and A classes, helping to make our public transport network more accessible for all Victorians," a




Yarra Trams businesses for sale and preserve tram history.


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