

National Victoria

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Z-class a tram fit for a Queen

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Melbourne's custom-designed royal tram has been unveiled on the eve of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Melbourne.

The newly-painted Z-class tram will carry the royal couple from Federation Square, along Swanston Street to Government House Drive tomorrow.



The side view of the tram prepared for the Queen's visit. 3AW

During its launch today at the Brunswick tram depot, tram driver Joyleen Smith was overwhelmed to learn that she will be driving the royal couple around the city.

"I didn't know what to say – it's such a great honour," Ms Smith said.

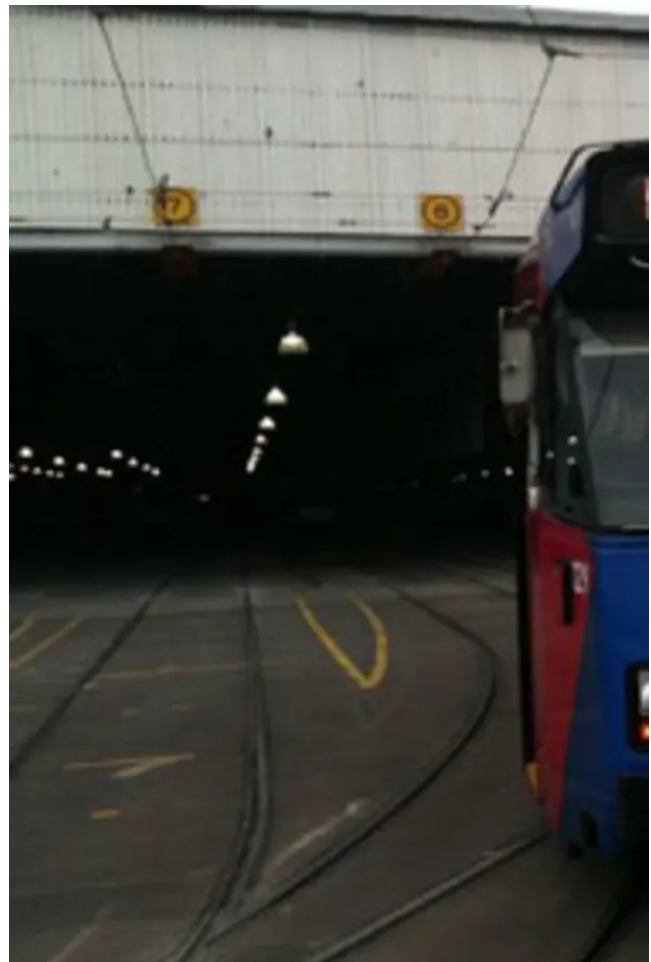
Transport Minister Terry Mulder said tomorrow would be a day Ms Smith, a tram driver for seven years, would remember for a long time.

Premier Ted Baillieu said the specially prepared tram would remain in public operation for the next year in honour of the Queen's visit.

"The royal tram will join Melbourne's tram network as another great icon of our city," Mr Baillieu said.

"Next year marks the 60th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne, and Victorians and visitors will be able to celebrate the diamond jubilee year by riding in the same tram on which the Queen travelled during her visit."

The royal tram will travel on single tram routes across Melbourne, including Airport West, Camberwell, Carnegie and East Brighton for the next year.



The front of the tram prepared for the Queen's visit. 3AW