

Employee News

Upgrading W-Class trams for future generations



- Six more W-Class trams will be upgraded to W8-Class by 2020
- W-Class trams that have yet to be upgraded will be temporarily removed from the City Circle
- City Circle will be supplemented by additional A-Class trams on Route 30

We will be temporarily reducing services on the City Circle, to allow non-upgraded W-Class trams to be removed so they can undergo restoration and important safety upgrades.

Six trams have already been upgraded to W8-Class at the Bendigo Tramways workshop, with a further six scheduled for completion by 2020.

W-Class trams were designed more than 80 years ago when traffic levels and operational demands were much lower than today.

“These restoration works will enable W-Class trams to be enjoyed for years to come,” Carla Purcell, Director, Lines, said.

The refurbishment includes a new reinforced driver’s cabin, new electronics and wiring, use of fire-retardant materials, and an overhaul of the braking systems.

The requirement to upgrade older W-Class trams means the City Circle will temporarily operate at reduced frequency, with services increasing as the W8-Class program progresses. These changes will be supplemented with additional A-Class trams on Route 30 from 15 October.

“Yarra Trams will continue to provide safe, reliable and easy-to-use services each day, including on upgraded W8-Class trams that reflect the cultural significance of trams in Melbourne,” Carla Purcell, Director, Lines, said.

Before the end of the year, the Colonial Tramcar Restaurant trams also need to be upgraded. PTV and Yarra Trams have been in discussions with the company that operates the restaurant trams to identify options for their continued operations.



Upgraded W8-Class trams are ready to operate alongside our newest E-Class for years to come