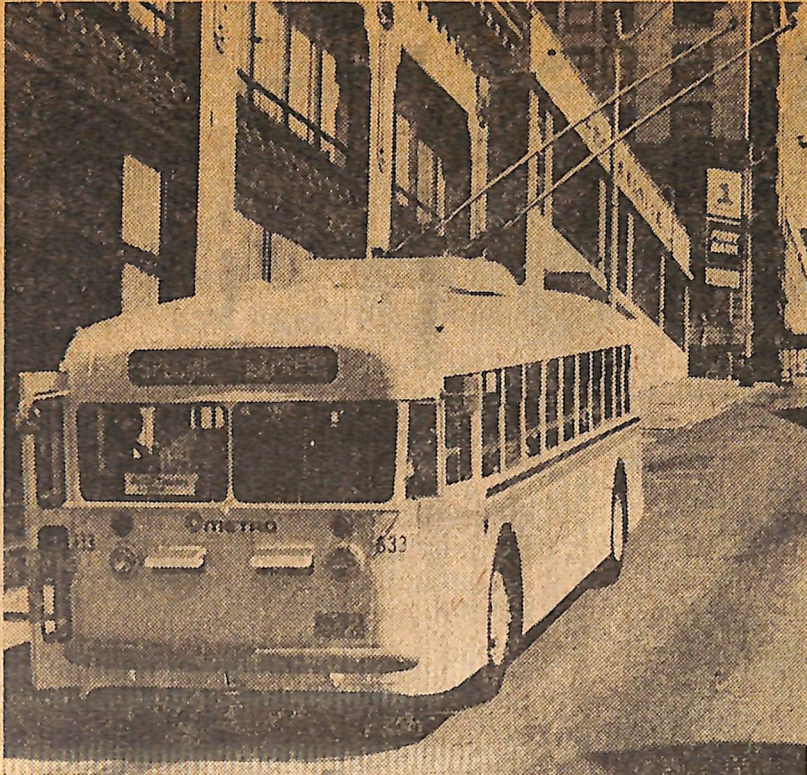


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One of the trolley buses being considered for Melbourne.

We may get a 'super' trolley

By LAWRENCE MONEY, Herald Transport Reporter

An electric trolley bus which can switch to self-drive on battery-power is being studied by the Tramways Board in proposals for Melbourne's first trolley bus service.

Tramways chairman Mr F. D. Snell, said the bus could drive through intersections and congested areas under its own power.

This eliminated the need for "ugly and expensive overhead wiring" at intersections which were often already crowded with wires, Mr Snell said.

Other features of buses being examined include:

- Power poles which can be raised and lowered automatically, enabling non-stop transition from overhead power to self-drive.
- Auxiliary Volkswagen motors.
- Electric motors which operate on alternating current converted from the direct current supply.

Mr Snell said trolley buses were now a "whole new ball game" with these improvements and hinted that, if the money was available, the board would almost certainly introduce them on some routes.

This was because rising fuel prices were increasing the cost of running diesel buses.

The Tramways' annual report showed that diesel fuel is expected to rise in price by 57 per cent this financial year, compared with an estimated rise of 18 per cent in electricity.

Trolley buses operate like trams, with an overhead power supply, but do not need rails.

Today's weather



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