

ELECTRIC BUSES STUDIED

14 11 79

By GEOFF STRONG

The Melbourne Tramways Board may introduce electric trolley buses to counter fuel price increases.

In its latest report to Parliament the board said diesel fuel prices were expected to rise 57 per cent in the next year but electricity costs only 18 per cent.

The report also showed an annual loss of \$35.6 million, up \$6.2 million on the previous year.

The board said that in view of present fuel costs the wisdom of retaining trams became more evident and the potential of the trolley bus should be reconsidered.

The Premier, Mr. Hamer, said on Monday that the Government was considering trolley buses for transport to VFL Park should Melbourne get the Olympic Games in 1988.

The Tramways Board said the cost of trolley buses, which run on overhead wires similar to trams, and their energy efficiency and environmental attractiveness was being studied.

The opposition transport spokesman, Mr. Crabb, yesterday attacked the annual cost of maintaining the board's 278 diesel buses.

The report showed the board spent \$3.6 million. Mr. Crabb said this was three times as much per bus as spent by private bus operators.

"For \$13,000 a year they could lease a brand new bus and have money to pay the driver," Mr. Crabb said.

Scratch the bite from a bee sting

SYDNEY. — Bee stings should be scratched rather than pulled out, a doctor said yesterday.

A neurological surgeon at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and hobby bee keeper, Mr. T. A. R. Dinning, said that by trying to pull out bee stings people inevitably squeezed the venom into their skin.

Mr. Dinning said the barb which was injected into the skin contained a tiny venom sac at the upper end which, if pressed, forced the venom in.

Immediate removal of the barb with a fingernail lessened the amount of venom injected.

The more venom injected into a person, the worse the effects.

In a letter to the 'Australian Medical Journal', Mr. Dinning said the scratching method of removing a bee's sting should be more widely recognised.

strike two

win Eastwood had strike in Penting drastic" had the Community Minister, Mr. night.

he thought the followed the dis-attempted break-od last week.

he believed that drastic had hap-wood he would report.

ill on strike he ected to regular and would receive til the strike was a said.

CAN cause cancer

eanuts grow natu-saccharin is made companies, so never cer," Mr. Baklien

waned and the Technology Media ontinued, Mr. Bak-he cancer-causing cured meat, steak, s, dairy products, fresh vegetables, about mothers'

about this, but it n, which has been cancer in labora-to better not," he

ists and journal-

ists at the lunch were also told the bitter fact that the caffeine in coffee is mutagenic, carcinogenic and teratogenic; that is, causes genetic defects, cancers and abnormal births.

"Needless to say our anti-pesticide crusaders are carefully avoiding any reference to these facts," Mr. Baklien said.

His point is that there are risks and benefits attached to pesticides and chemicals in the same way as there are risks involved in eating.

"More and more now with the testing of chemicals we are finding out that more and more of these things can be shown to

produce cancers," Mr. Baklien said later.

Some scientists at the meeting challenged Mr. Baklien's suggestion that 2,4,5-T was one of the safest pesticides produced.

Dr. Don McPhee, a La Trobe University microbiologist, said Mr. Baklien listed some of the reasons why one in four people get cancer and one in five die from it.

"Having all these things in our natural environment is why the current cancer levels are so high," Dr. McPhee said.

"The concern is that with new chemicals we may be making very significant changes to the incidence that is already there."