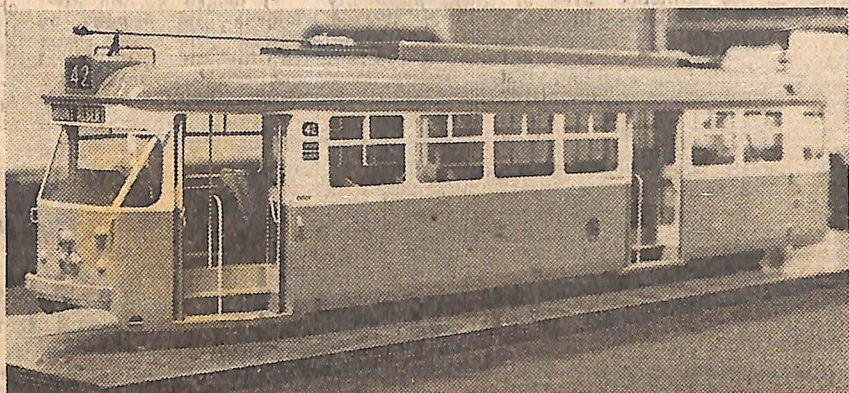


SUPERTRAM



Melbourne's 45 mph tram of the '70s went on show in the city today.

A 5 ft. long, 12 in. high model (ABOVE) was unveiled by the Minister for Transport, Mr Wilcox.

Mr Wilcox said a full-scale prototype was being constructed by the Tramways Board.

It is expected to be operating early next year.

The prototype will cost about \$100,000.

Tram passengers will get:

- Heating in winter.
- A near-noiseless journey.
- Separate entrances and exits.
- All-electric braking.
- Automatic acceleration and deceleration, for a faster operating speed and a more comfortable ride.

Passengers will pass a seated conductor at the front entrance.

ELIMINATE

"This will eliminate fare evasion — now estimated at nine per cent of the Tramways' fare revenue," Mr Wilcox said.

Mr Wilcox said he will ask Treasury to approve the purchase of 100 of the new style trams.

No date has been set for the start or completion of the project.

The new trams will require no major overhauls for 12 years.

"The government certainly accepts that trams will remain in Melbourne," Mr Wilcox said. "This does not mean trams will run on all present routes."

The model tram is painted orange and cream with a green roof.

The full-scale prototype will have tail and stop lights.

"It will also have traffic indicators," Mr Wilcox said.