

Media Release

The Hon Ben Carroll MP

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Public Transport

Minister for Roads and Road Safety



Tuesday, 25 October 2022

APPRENTICES NEEDED TO KEEP MELBOURNE TRAMS MOVING

Applications are now open to work on the world's largest tram network, keeping it running safely and reliably for millions of passengers every week.

Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll said the four-year Yarra Trams apprenticeship program prepares apprentices to safely maintain and manage the network of overhead wires that power the tram network.

In the first two years of training, overhead apprentices mix working on de-energised infrastructure alongside experienced lines workers before apprentices take a significant step to working on live overhead wires alongside trainers and experienced lines workers.

Numerous safety controls are in place to ensure workers' safety - including using specialised live line techniques, working from insulated platforms and wearing insulating equipment.

Overhead workers are crucial to the safe operation of the tram network, with technicians performing important maintenance and renewal work to reduce the number of unplanned disruptions, as well as responding to incidents involving overhead lines.

The tram network runs on more than 500 kilometres of overhead contact wire hung above the tram network, powering up to 500 trams at a time.

All of the power used by Melbourne's trams is offset by solar power generated at two large solar installations in the north of Victoria, making trams one of the most environmentally friendly ways of getting around the city.

Applications for the overhead apprenticeship roles are now open with applicants encouraged to visit the Yarra Trams careers webpage.

Quote attributable to Minister for Public Transport Ben Carroll

"Yarra Trams' dedicated staff do a great job of keeping people moving and this is a great chance to make a difference and be a key part of keeping Melbourne's transport network moving."

Quote attributable to Parliamentary Secretary for Transport Vicki Ward

"This is an exciting opportunity to work on the world's largest tram network, helping millions of Victorians get around every week."

Quote attributable to Yarra Trams CEO Julien Dehornoy

"Our overhead teams are critical to the safe and reliable operation of the world's largest tram network, and I'm delighted that we're nurturing and developing the next generation of overhead workers through our apprenticeship program."

Quote attributable to Yarra Trams Third Year Overhead Apprentice Nicole Blethyn

"I knew that I'd be working with a lot of blokes when I applied for the role, but it's been a really incredible experience overall, with everyone really supportive and I love coming to work every day."

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