Be safe around light rail

Whether you’re walking, cycling, driving or catching public transport, it’s important we all take care and are safe around light rail.

Sticking to the road rules and being aware of your surroundings will help you stay safe. Signs, traffic lights and road markings show how motorists, cyclists and pedestrians should behave around trams and tracks.

For most of Hunter and Scott streets light rail runs in its own dedicated lane known as a tramway. Motorists (except drivers of trams, tram recovery vehicles and public buses), cyclists and pedestrians are not permitted to travel on a tramway, except at designated crossings and intersections.

There is a mixed running section on Scott Street, between Newcommen and Pacific Streets. In this section, trams and vehicular traffic share a lane. Cyclists riding in both directions are not permitted to ride along the road between Newcommen Street and Telford Street and must use the off-road shared path or an alternative route.

There is also a section of tramway that runs in its own corridor west of Worth Place. Motorists, cyclists and pedestrians are not permitted within this corridor.

Road users should treat trams as any other large vehicle. Light rail drivers have blind spots. Never assume the driver has seen you.

Remember trams take longer to stop than other heavy vehicles such as buses and trucks and can’t swerve to avoid a collision. Forcing a tram to make a sudden stop doesn’t just affect you but has a flow on effect for all customers on board.

For more information, please visit newcastletransport.info
In the event of an emergency, dial Triple Zero (000)
Safety on board

Safety for motorists
- Always follow traffic signals and signs
- Keep to the 40km/h speed limit
- Don’t drive in the tramway
- Never queue across intersections or tram tracks
- Never turn in front of a tram
- Don’t stop or park within the tramway (even when you can’t see a tram)
- Trams are wide so please leave plenty of room

Safety for cyclists
- Ride straight over the tracks at 90 degrees to avoid your wheels getting caught (if you can’t ride straight over, dismount safely before crossing)
- Don’t ride along the tracks
- Tracks can be slippery when wet
- Use the shared pathways where possible
- Always keep a safe distance from trams

Safety for pedestrians
- Always use designated pedestrian crossings
- Look left and right, check twice for trams
- Trams move quietly. Be aware of your surroundings and avoid distractions such as mobile phones
- Access light rail stops via the designated entry. Never shortcut over the tracks
- Step over the tracks as they can be slippery, especially when wet
- For prams and wheelchairs, cross straight over the tracks to avoid wheels getting caught

This illustration shows the correct way to queue.