

# THE WORKSHOPS RAIL MUSEUM

## INFORMATION SHEET

# SPECIAL CAR 445: VICE REGAL CAR



The 'One of Kind' exhibition zone at The Workshops Rail Museum features a very special wooden carriage.

Car No.445 was made at the Ipswich Railway Workshops and entered service in September 1903 as a special saloon for the Governor of Queensland. The design was based on the new Pullman suburban carriages being introduced onto Queensland Railways at the time.

The carriage was made from a variety of materials including Queensland cedar, which was used for the matchboard sheeting on the sides. The main underframe was made from steel while the body framing was made using Indian teak and Oregon pine. The exterior of the carriage was originally varnished wood but is now painted in the Indian red colour scheme typical of wooden cars on Queensland's railways.

Car No.445 was refurbished at the Ipswich Railway Workshops in 1922, when the leading end veranda was enclosed and a kitchenette installed. The veranda at the rear of the carriage remained to act as an observation platform. As it always faced the rear of the train when in use, it allowed the dignitaries to sit outside and enjoy the scenery in comfort.

Further modifications were made in 1932, and again in 1933 and 1934 when the original clerestory roof was replaced with a 'bull-nose' style roof. Modifications were again made in 1952 and 1959 to remove upper berths previously located in the sleeping compartments. In 1969 an exterior compartment for gas bottles and ride-control bogies were fitted.

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The interior of the car is richly decorated using native Queensland timbers. There is a lounge sitting area at the observation end of the carriage. A corridor then passes along one side past a single State Room, a shower and toilet, and then a second State Room before opening out into an eating area with fold-down bunk beds above the tables for use by attendants. A small kitchenette occupies what was originally the veranda at the opposite end of the car.

This carriage was used on a number of occasions by members of the Royal Family when visiting Queensland. The last member of the Royal Family to use the car was Princess Alexandra during a journey between Brisbane and Nambour in 1959. The Vice Regal Car has retained its primary use as a special saloon for Queensland Governors and is still considered a working item of rollingstock in the QR fleet.

The Vice-Regal Car is an outstanding example of the skills of the Carriage Builders and staff at Ipswich Railway Workshops and is currently on loan to The Workshops Rail Museum from QR.

## Specifications:

<b>Length</b> (over buffers)	52 ft 11 ins
<b>Length</b> (over headstocks)	49 ft 6 ins
<b>Width</b> (over body)	8 ft 7 ins
<b>Weight</b> (empty)	26 tons 9 cwt

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