

No. XXII.

ELECTRIC TRACTION. **An Act to authorise the use of Electric Traction on Tramways, and the construction, maintenance, repair, and use of works in connection therewith. [22nd October, 1896.]**

Preamble.

WHEREAS it would be for the public convenience to establish a system of electric traction in connection with tramways now existing and hereafter to be constructed: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Definitions.

1. In this Act the expression—

“ Commissioners” means the Railway Commissioners of New South Wales incorporated by the Government Railways Act of 1888.

“ Road” means any public or private road, highway, street, square, lane, court, or passage.

“ Tramway” means any tramway now or which may hereafter be under the control of the Commissioners or vested in them by virtue of any Statute relating to tramways or railways.

“ Works” includes any stations, posts, pillars, brackets, excavations, wires, cables, or other things in any way used in connection with electric traction on tramways.

Municipal Council of Sydney Electric Lighting.

2. It shall be lawful for the Commissioners to use either in addition to or in substitution for any existing system of traction on tramways any system of electric traction of which they may approve, and to construct, maintain, repair and use all works necessary for such system of electric traction.

3. The Commissioners for the purposes of this Act shall have all such rights of ingress and egress to, from, and over the surface of any road on which any tramway is now or may hereafter be laid, as are required for the construction, maintenance, repair, and use of any such works, and shall have power from time to time to open up the surface of any road for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and repairing works beneath the level of such road, and to erect, support, and maintain above the level of, and across any such road, such wires and other electric apparatus as may, in their opinion, be necessary for the efficient use and maintenance of electric traction on such tramways: Provided always that the powers given by this Act shall be used so as to interfere as little as may be reasonably possible with traffic and public convenience, that all works commenced shall be expeditiously carried out, and that adequate provision shall be made at all times for the public safety during the construction, maintenance, and repair of any works authorised by this Act.

4. Every person who wilfully cuts or otherwise severs any wire or cable, or so damages any part of the works connected with any such system of electric traction as to break the electric circuit or cause leakage or loss of the current shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour.

5. This Act may be cited as the "Electric Traction Act, 1896." Short title.