

Pay row to hit trams

Tram services could be hit with a wave of cancellations and delays later this month, with drivers who are seeking a better pay deal refusing to do voluntary overtime and cover shifts on their days off.

About 1500 Yarra Trams drivers and customer service personnel have voted to launch the work bans on Monday, August 26, in their fight for a 6 per cent annual wage rise over three years. Yarra Trams is offering a 3 per cent increase.

The planned action, which includes a ban on wearing uniforms, will occur a day before Metro Trains workers will - if parties fail to agree on a wage deal - walk off the job for four hours.

Yarra Trams has presented

members with two new enterprise bargaining agreements that have been rejected by union members.

A major sticking point is the company's plan to remove a requirement that part-time staff work for a minimum of seven hours a shift.

Yarra Trams wants to lift a cap on the number of part-time workers on the network from 4 per cent to 15 per cent.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union state secretary Luba Grigorovitch said the company was trying to flood depots with part-time workers. She said: "These bans, which are a first step in our industrial campaign, will put pressure on Yarra Trams to manage rosters and other administrative tasks."

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