

Tram strikes to restart

Tram strikes are being flagged to start again next week, with the public transport union planning to bring the city's network to a halt as a pay dispute continues.

On the next two Thursdays, November 28 and December 5, about 1500 drivers and customer service personnel at Yarra Trams will down tools for four hours between 10am and 2pm.

It follows two days of strike action taken by members of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union in late August.

The union is still demanding a 6 per cent annual pay rise over three years, while Yarra Trams has offered 3 per cent over four years.

RTBU state secretary Luba

Grigorovitch called on Public Transport Minister Melissa Horne to help resolve the long-running dispute.

The tram operator has offered up two enterprise bargaining agreements which have been rejected by the union. The offers involved rolling over the existing wage deal but increasing a cap on part-time work.

Yarra Trams chief executive Nicolas Gindt said buses would replace trams but run at a reduced frequency on the days of the strikes.

Yarra Trams has been negotiating with the RTBU since March 2019.

Timna Jacks