

Tram driver pay figures disputed

Melbourne's tram drivers brought the city's network to a halt for four hours on Thursday in pursuit of pay demands that could be worth more than \$20,000 each on average.

Drivers are seeking a pay rise of 5 per cent a year and with the average driver paid about \$94,000 a year including penalties, overtime and allowances, according to their employer Yarra Trams, the wage demand would see average pay go past \$114,000 at the end of the four-year deal.

The Rail, Tram and Bus Union disputes those figures, arguing they are inflated by drivers who work a lot of overtime and shifts and that most of the workforce's earnings would be closer to the base salary of about \$72,000.

The union has already backed down from its previous demand of 6 per cent a year.

Negotiations started in March this year.

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