

# Payout for tram travellers

Yarra Trams will pay compensation to passengers who used the tram network frequently last month, because it failed to meet its reliability target - for the fifth month in a row.

Industrial action on December 5, damage caused by the hot weather to overhead lines at Clifton Hill station, and several accidents in which large vehicles hit rail bridges along Racecourse Road in Flemington, are among the reasons for Yarra Trams' poor December performance.

It missed its monthly reliability target of 98.5 per cent, delivering 97.2 per cent of its scheduled services. However, punctuality on the tram network was above the operator's target and at 82.8 per cent.

Transport Department head of transport services Jeroen Weimar said it was crucial public transport operators met their targets even during busy months. He also chastised drivers of large vehicles who hit bridges.

Over the past few months, Victoria's tram network has been dogged by industrial action. Drivers are fighting for an annual 5 per cent pay rise.

Drivers have planned another strike to coincide with the Australian Open. About 1500 drivers and customer service staff will stop working for four hours between 10am and 2pm on January 28 and 30 amid the escalating nine-month pay dispute.

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