

Yarra Trams drops its Transclean contract

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Transport reporter

Yarra Trams has cut its security contract with cleaning contractor Transclean, citing several failures in procedure and protocol, following an anti-corruption commission inquiry alleging the company paid off public officials in exchange for favours.

The Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission has heard allegations of serious corruption within Victoria's railways, including accusations that former V/Line chief executive James Pinder and Metro manager Peter Bollas pocketed cash bribes from Transclean while overseeing the company's multimillion-dollar cleaning contracts.

The corruption scandal revealed that Mr Pinder allegedly accepted \$320,000 from Transclean and its associated entities which he spent on his \$2.5 million home, months after granting the company a contract with V/Line worth up to \$40 million.

V/Line has sacked Mr Pinder and terminated its contract with Transclean while Metro announced on Friday that it severed its cleaning contract with Transclean after sacking Mr Bollas.

Yarra Trams also confirmed it has ripped up its long-standing security contract with Transclean, which has performed security work for Yarra Trams for over a decade.

However, a Yarra Trams spokesman said the operator was terminating the contract for after-hours depot security due to several failures of procedure and protocol found in an internal audit of Transclean's performance. It follows evidence heard at IBAC that Transclean failed to sanitise Melbourne's train carriages properly at the height of the pandemic in April.

Yarra Trams has engaged with another provider, Spotless, to carry out security work in the short term and the security contract would be up for tender soon.

"Yarra Trams is terminating its contract with Transclean for after-hours depot security, and has provided the company 30 days' notice," the spokesman said.

"Given the criticality of depot security, which keeps our people and assets safe, this work will be performed by Spotless for an interim period until a full and thorough tender process can be completed."

Metro Trains' chief executive Raymond O'Flaherty said Metro has terminated its contract with Transclean and a "rigorous tender process is already underway" to appoint a long-term cleaning supplier.