

DOES YOUR TRAM SUDDENLY HAVE FEWER SEATS?

Yarra Trams has begun removing seats from B-class trams, in order to carry more people under crush conditions.

In March one tram was modified to remove 30 of the 74 available seats (a 40 per cent reduction) and replace them with a "bum rack" like those on the new Citadis trams. They now have Government approval to remove seats from another ten B-class trams "as a trial".

Removing seats will make little difference to the number of passengers that can be carried comfortably. However, it will allow a higher "crush loading" if people are crammed in like sardines, since more standing passengers fit into the space taken by one seated passenger.



RUN MORE TRAMS INSTEAD

Yarra Trams has a problem: its tram services are starting to become popular. In peak hours there are now more passengers than can comfortably be carried on its current services.

The Yarra Trams solution - pull out seats to cram more people into the same number of trams - is doing its passengers a disservice. Any sane public transport operator faced with this problem would instead run more trams. This option is also available to Yarra Trams, despite its denials.

Government operator M>Tram is currently pulling Z-class trams out of service and scrapping them, at a rate of up to one a week. These trams could run on Yarra Trams routes.

Yarra Trams itself has a whole fleet of idle W-class trams, some of which could be pressed into service almost immediately.

In discussions with the PTUA the Government has admitted that capacity on Yarra Trams is "not a rolling stock issue".

THE REAL REASONS?

There is no doubt that Yarra Trams can solve its overcrowding problem without removing seats and reducing passenger comfort. So why does Yarra continue to insist that they have no more trams when they clearly do?


We can only speculate as to the reasons. As a private operator, Yarra Trams is mainly focussed on cutting costs, rather than providing a useful service. By refusing to run more trams Yarra sidesteps the need to employ more drivers, which would eat into its profit.


There is another plausible reason. When the Citadis trams were introduced, many passengers criticised them for having too few seats compared with the existing, locally-built A and B class trams. Removing seats from these other trams would prevent them being compared favourably with the Citadis show ponies.





WHAT YOU CAN DO

Yarra Trams and the State Government will continue to remove our tram seats unless passengers make themselves heard. Here's what you can do to stop this crazy policy and make Yarra run more services on your tram route:

 Join the PTUA. The more members we have, the more pressure we can place on the government and operators to do the right thing by passengers.

 Write a letter to the Transport Minister, Peter Batchelor.

 Write a letter to The Age or the Herald Sun.

 Ring up talkback radio.
774 ABC Melbourne 9414 1774
3AW 9696 1278

I want to join the PTUA. I enclose my subscription of \$25 (\$12 concession).

I want to help with the campaign.

Please send me more information.

Mail to:
PTUA
Ross House
247 Flinders Lane
Melbourne 3000

ABOUT THE PTUA

The Public Transport Users Association is a volunteer run community group that lobbies governments and conducts direct campaigns to promote public transport as part of environmentally, socially and economically friendly transport policy.

We are located on the ground floor of Ross House, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Our phone number is 9650 7898, and we have a website at www.ptua.org.au.



YARRA TRAMS: BYO SEAT?



Protect Your Tram Service.
Join the

PTUA

PUBLIC TRANSPORT USERS' ASSOCIATION