



## Workers scrap strike threat after marathon talks

By James O'Loan  
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QANTAS passengers will not endure any strike-induced flight delays this month, with the airline's maintenance workers having ditched their threat of refusing to work overtime.

The long-held threat to disrupt maintenance work on Qantas aircraft was averted yesterday after a six-hour mediation session convened in Melbourne by Australian Industrial Relations Commission vice-president Graeme Watson.

The overtime ban covering 1700 maintenance workers was first threatened last month during protracted pay negotiations, along with the prospect of more disruptive rolling work stoppages.

Without the engineers checking and servicing planes before each trip, aircraft are not allowed to fly.

The union has called for a 5 per cent pay rise among other terms in a new collective agreement but Qantas is still holding firm with its offer of 3 per cent plus additional superannuation.

Industrial action after February 1 is now not being ruled out by the union, which represents about 300 Qantas aircraft maintenance engineers in Queensland.

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