

# Snellings, unions at war

THE Government backdown on cutting public service entitlements has failed to appease the public sector unions and it now faces an all-out war with them leading up to the next election.

Treasurer Jack Snelling restored the 17.5 per cent leave loading cut by his predecessor Kevin Foley in the 2010 state Budget but warned unions that there would have to be cuts to compensate. He axed 400 more jobs in

**GREG KELTON**



his first Budget and warned the PS unions that after the 2014 election the no forced redundancies policy would be dropped. After that election, any public servant who could not find another pos-

ition within a year of being redeployed would be sacked.

There was a muted response from the Public Service Association at the time but it has now stepped up its attack on the Government, warning the campaign which started after Mr Foley's horror Budget would continue.

It is understood that during discussions with Mr Snelling where he flagged the end of tenure, the PSA "noted" the Government's position but

did not agree with it. PSA general secretary Jan McMahon said while the union welcomed the return of leave loading it would continue to campaign for the restoration of all conditions.

"The PSA does not accept that conditions negotiated with government ... can be unilaterally removed," she said. "Job security is negotiated with each major party before each election." Ms McMahon said that

position had not changed and the PSA would pursue tenure again before the 2014 poll.

"With the state's population increasing, public sector job cuts will lead to an even greater reduction of services to SA families."

Any party which did not agree to retain tenure did so at its own risk, she said.

Mr Snelling said the Government had made it clear it would honour its election commitment of retaining ten-

ure during this term in office.

"We have also made it clear that following the next election it would be unreasonable for the Government to have someone who hasn't been able to secure a permanent position within the public service for longer than 12 months be kept on indefinitely," he said. "This decision will allow for greater flexibility within the public sector workforce."

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*'The Advertiser'*  
*Monday, 13/6/11*