



# Community and Public Sector Union

CPSU (State Public Services Federation Tasmania) Inc. - CPSU (SPSF Group, Tasmanian Branch)

## Open letter to Victorian Public Sector workers

October 22, 2014

As the leaders of the Tasmanian Branch of the Community & Public Sector Union we strongly encourage you to take an active interest in deciding who your employer will be after your next state election.

Like the CPSU in Victoria the Tasmanian Branch isn't affiliated to any political party but we feel obliged to share our recent experiences with you.

Tasmanians went to the polls in February and before the election we asked each political party to tell our Members about their policies on a range of important public sector issues.

The Liberals, then in opposition, told public sector workers they had nothing to worry about in electing a Liberal government. They said they'd limit any cuts to the public sector to a maximum of 500 over 4 years, they ruled out forced redundancies, they assured us there'd be no changes to the industrial relations system and said they respected the role of unions and would negotiate and consult widely with their workforce.

Since being elected they've broken every one of these commitments.

In the August budget they announced 1200 public sector jobs would be cut but then said 500 of these could be saved if wages were frozen for 12 months. This meant they'd be walking away from increases in registered Agreements. They told us they would impose their wage freeze through legislation rather than negotiate. The Bill they tabled effectively destroyed the independence of the industrial umpire and breached ILO conventions on collective bargaining and freedom of association – conventions to which Australia is a signatory. They also changed the processes for dealing with surplus employees so they could be made forcibly redundant.

As a public sector worker you're in the unique position of being able to vote to determine your future employer. We've had a bad experience here in Tasmania so we urge you to grasp every chance available before your election to question and challenge those who want the privilege of governing your great state.

We hope you get the government you deserve.

**Tom Lynch**  
General Secretary  
CPSU - Tasmania

**Grant Ransley**  
President  
CPSU - Tasmania

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