

HEADLINE: Election adds to strains on cap

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Figures reveal that wages for the government's more than 270,000 employees account for just under half of all government expenses in the 2010-11 budget. But the government may have to spend more as it faces pay negotiations with nurses and rail workers' unions in the lead up to next year's election. A policy introduced three years ago saw a cap on wage increases at 2.5 per cent per year, and Unions NSW secretary Mark Lennon says public sector workers are fed up with the policy. Meanwhile negotiations with the NSW Nurses Association are yet to begin.

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MENTIONS: Nurses Association