



Dismayed at border issue

I WOULD like to respond to Jack Simpson's open letter (*Northern Guardian*, May 5, page 2). To begin with, I would like to assure you the material that Mr Simpson refers to which was sent to constituents throughout the North West was by no means "a five page colour brochure" – one folded A4 page hardly constitutes five pages.

I am dismayed by Mr Simpson's dismissal of the border protection issue which I raised in this material as I

have been absolutely inundated with responses, with literally thousands of surveys continuing to flood into my office. This is a clear indication the issue of illegal immigration is a topic of significant importance to Western Australians.

We chose to save paper and money by not addressing the fact that the Rudd Government has continuously disadvantaged people in country Australia by:

- Abolishing the very suc-

cessful Regional Partnerships and Growing Regions programs;

- Slashing funding to rural health services, regional arts programs and rural financial counselling services;

- Attempting to increase centralisation of health services, based on an activity based funding model; and

- Axing several vital agricultural initiatives including Farm Help and Farm Biz.

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