



COST-CUTTING: PM
 Julia Gillard.

The state the PM doesn't want to hear from

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IF IT didn't happen in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne or London, it isn't worth knowing about.

That appears to be the judgment of Julia Gillard's own department, which has dumped its subscriptions to major metropolitan newspapers outside of southeastern Australia, including *The Courier-Mail*.

Other state based publications, including the *Adelaide Advertiser*, *Hob-*

art Mercury, *Northern Territory News* and *the West Australian* have also been dumped in a cost-cutting drive.

The department is still buying major national, Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra newspapers, as well as the London-based *Financial Times*, the *Koori Mail* and right wing journal *Quadrant*.

It has also retained a range of specialist publications, along with *Vogue Living*, for its Office for the Arts.

The reading habits of the nation's top bureaucrats has been revealed in written answers to questions on notice from the last Senate Budget estimates inquiry.

The department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has cut its newspaper and magazine costs to \$103,252 from \$112,821 last year.

"The department provides the newspapers to support departmental officers in the execution of their advisory role," department officials said in the written statement.

The subscriptions are for Ms Gillard's department and not the Prime Ministers' Office.

But Liberal Senator Scott Ryan, who sought the information, said it showed Ms Gillard's department was not interested in life beyond the southeast states.

"I really think she [Ms Gillard] would be better served learning about the issues that affect Queenslanders and getting her head out of the London papers," he said.