

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2010-11  
23 February 2011

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** IBM Research Lab

**REFERENCE:** Written question - Senator Colbeck

**QUESTION No.:** AI-60

On what date did the Government decide to withdraw from its commitment of \$22 million to the IBM Research Lab in Melbourne and what were the reasons for the discontinuation of this funding?

**ANSWER**

A Labor Party campaign media release of 14 August 2010 indicated that as part of additional savings measures a Federal Labor Government “will no longer proceed with ... a possible contribution to the establishment of an ICT-enabled laboratory.”(*Source: Campaign Media Release, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Finance Campaign Spokesperson, 14 August 2010*)

The commitment was an unannounced “Expense measure since the Economic Statement” and was listed in the Pre-election Economic and Fiscal Outlook (PEFO) as the Establishment of an ICT-enabled research laboratory – Commonwealth assistance.

While not identified at the time, this savings measure referred to the establishment of an IBM Global Research & Development Laboratory at the University of Melbourne. Upon retaining office, the Government took a decision to fund the Laboratory at the originally proposed amount of \$22 million. Commonwealth funding was publicly announced on 14 October 2010.