

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2009-10  
01 June 2009

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

**TOPIC:** POWERING IDEAS

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Abetz

**QUESTION No.:** BI-17

Is that a “white paper”?

If so, please provide other examples of White Papers which contain political commentary.

Who wrote the document?

Did Departmental officers write the following statements:

“a decade of policy neglect” (p2)

“the toll of political complacency and policy neglect upon Australia cannot be ignored” (p12)

Who wrote the following sentence and what is the evidence to back it up:

“The Australian economy grew strongly between 1992 and 2007, thanks mainly to reforms made in the 1980s and a boom in demand for our resources”

What happened to reforms the 1990s? Did they disappear?

**ANSWER**

*Powering Ideas: An Innovation Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* outlines the Government’s ten-year strategy for innovation policy. It is a formal Government document and, in line with its long-term strategic vision, is also referred to as a white paper.

*Powering Ideas* provides evidence to support statements made on the development of innovation policy since the 1980s. It also draws on evidence provided in the report of the Review of the National Innovation System, *Venturous Australia: Building Strength in Innovation*. This review, conducted by an independent panel of experts, found that the decline in Commonwealth Government investment in research and innovation over the decade from the mid-1990s was a key reason for Australia falling behind its international competitors.