

News Notes

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War of words over tax changes

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Research and development (R&D) tax changes are at the heart of another policy debate between Labor and the Coalition.

Opposition spokeswoman Sophie Mirabella yesterday vowed to keep the current R&D tax arrangements until at least July next year, but Kim Carr, Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, has accused the Coalition of turning its back on small business.

On the advice of Treasury and the Australian Taxation office, Labor believes the current R&D rules are being gamed by large companies and their advisors. The government has instead proposed a stricter R&D definition, with more generous subsidies for those in business that qualify, particularly small business.