



MEDIA RELEASE

Bob Baldwin, MP

Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources

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NEW LAWS ENSURE MORE FREEDOM FOR AUSTRALIAN INNOVATORS

Australian researchers will benefit from amendments to be made to the Patents Act, Bob Baldwin, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources announced today.

Mr Baldwin said the changes will give researchers greater scope to test fresh ideas and potentially discover something new about an invention without the threat of patent infringement.

The changes will mean Australian researchers and businesses can confidently accelerate the pace of innovation.

"Successful innovation is a primary driver of Australia's economic growth," Mr Baldwin said.

"Patent rights are valuable in the successful commercialisation of technology.

"The amendments will outline the research activities that can be done without infringing on a patent holder's rights, including: determining how an invention works; verifying the validity of patent claims; or improving the invention."

The amendments are part of the Australian Government's response to recommendations from the Advisory Council on Intellectual Property (ACIP) report: *Patents and Experimental Use*.

"The Howard government has a strong record of providing support to keep Australia at the forefront of global research and development efforts. We have done this while ensuring maximum protection for intellectual property."

The full Government response and a copy of the report can be found at www.ipaustralia.gov.au and www.acip.gov.au.

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