

## **ABBOTT SAYS FAIR WORK LAWS HAVE "SWUNG THE PENDULUM" TOO FAR**

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott says Labor's Fair Work laws have "swung the pendulum" too far away from business and industry.

Former Prime Minister John Howard has weighed into the debate saying Labor workplace laws - which overturned his government's Work Choices laws - were "one of the worst mistakes" Julia Gillard had made.

Mr Howard said the laws effectively re-regulated the labour market.

During the election campaign in 2010, Opposition Leader Tony Abbott declared Work Choices "dead, buried, cremated", but unions and Labor figures say he wants to resurrect them.

Mr Abbott told Fairfax Radio on Wednesday frontbenchers Sophie Mirabella and Ian Macfarlane had been appointed to liaise with business and industry on workplace reform.

The feedback would be used in drafting a policy the coalition would take to the next election.

"(We are) trying to look at the extent to which the current Fair Work laws are making it harder for business to compete and for people to be employed," Mr Abbott said.

"I think there is no doubt that the Fair Work legislation took the pendulum from one side and swung it right back to the other side."

But Mr Abbott said the coalition's policy would be "based on solving problems and not ideology".

"I think what it will aim to do is solve the problems that businesses have got," he said.