

China Matters First National Meeting

Canberra, 22 May 2015

Biographies of panellists, moderators and speakers

Mr. Angus Armour

Mr. Angus Armour has been Deputy Secretary, Business NSW/Arts NSW since September 2013. His portfolio includes Innovation & Industry Policy, Investment & Export Services, Arts NSW, the Office of Liquor Gaming & Racing and Strategic Policy & Economics. Mr. Armour has a financial services background, and from 2003 was CEO and MD of Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC), which he joined in 1993. Prior to EFIC, Mr. Armour worked with Export Development Canada in project and asset finance in Europe, Latin America and the United States; and the International Finance Corporation's project advisory team for the South Pacific. He is a Trustee of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia and member of its NSW State Council, and a non-executive Board member of the European Australian Business Council. From 2009 through to 2011 he served as President of the Berne Union, the international association of export credit and investment insurance companies, and served on the Management, and Finance and Remuneration Committees from 2009 to 2013.

Professor Geremie R. Barmé

Prof. Geremie R Barmé is an historian, cultural critic, filmmaker, translator and web-journal editor who works on Chinese cultural and intellectual history from the early modern period (1600s) to the present. He is a research professor and Australian Research Council Federation Fellow in the College of Asia & the Pacific, Australian National University (ANU), where he is the editor of the online e-journal *China Heritage Quarterly* and creator of The China Story Project. He is the Director of the Australian Centre on China in the World, ANU. Prof. Barmé is on the Advisory Council of China Matters.

Mr. Peter Baxter

Mr. Peter Baxter is the Deputy Secretary Strategy in the Department of Defence. He was appointed Deputy Secretary Strategy in December 2013 after serving as Director General of AusAID from 2010. Prior to AusAID, Mr Baxter headed the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Consular, Public Diplomacy and Parliamentary Affairs Division. He joined DFAT in 1988 and served on a number of overseas postings, including Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vietnam. Mr. Baxter's last posting was as Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington from 2002-05. In 2000, Mr. Baxter was Special Envoy of the Foreign Minister to the Solomon Islands. Other DFAT senior management roles include heading Consular and Passports (2000), Corporate Management (2000-01), Market Development (2001-02) and North Asia (2005-08).

Mr. Stephen Byron

Mr. Stephen Byron has been Managing Director of Canberra Airport and the Capital Airport Group since the airport's acquisition from the Commonwealth in 1998 by his father Terry Snow. Since then Mr. Byron has overseen investment of almost \$2 billion in new infrastructure and development at Canberra Airport. Today the airport terminal is international-ready and services three million domestic passengers annually, and the adjacent business parks and retail precincts accommodate some 12,000 workers and leading national retailers including Costco, Woolworths and Big W. Mr. Byron is Chair of the Australian Capital Cities Airport CEO Group, Chairman of the Board of Canberra Grammar School, Board Governor of the Australian National University Endowment for Excellence, Board Member of the Canberra Convention Bureau and a Director of the Snow Foundation. In 2013, Mr. Byron was recognised by the Australian Airports Association with a national award for the most outstanding contribution to the airports industry. Mr. Byron resides in Canberra with his family and is a keen sailor, having completed 21 Sydney to Hobart yacht races.

Mr. Jason Fitts

Mr. Jason Fitts was posted to the Australian Embassy in Beijing from 1997 to 2000 and worked in the economic section covering a range of matters including bilateral trade and investment in the mining and energy sectors. He returned to Beijing in 2007 for two years to work in the AusAID-funded China Australia Governance Program, which undertook projects on economic governance in China. Mr. Fitts has over ten years' experience in the economic regulation of electricity and gas infrastructure at the Australian Energy Regulator and in the economic regulation of water infrastructure in the Victorian Essential Services Commission. He has undertaken short-term secondments to infrastructure regulators in Taiwan and the USA. Mr. Fitts has an academic background in economics and finance and has a Master of Public Policy from Princeton University focusing on economic development and urban planning. He speaks and reads Mandarin.

Dr. Bates Gill

Dr. Bates Gill is presently Chief Executive Officer of the United States Studies Centre (USSC) at the University of Sydney, a position he has held since October 2012. Prior to this, he was Director and chief executive of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), an independent think tank consistently recognized as one of the world's top ten research institutes in international affairs. Before joining SIPRI, Dr Gill held the Freeman Chair in China Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C from 2002 to 2007. He previously served as the inaugural Director of the Center for Northeast Asian Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution. Dr. Gill has a long record of research and publication on international and regional security issues, particularly regarding arms control, non-proliferation, peacekeeping and military-technical development, especially with regard to China and Asia. Dr. Gill is a Board Director of China Matters.

Mr. Allan Gyngell AO

Mr. Allan Gyngell AO was the Director-General of the Office of National Assessments (ONA) from July 2009 until April 2013 and, prior to that, the founding Executive Director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy (2003-09). He is currently a Visiting Fellow at the National Security College, an Adjunct Professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy and Director of the Crawford Australian Leadership Forum. He is co-author (with Michael Wesley) of *Making Australian Foreign Policy* (Cambridge University Press). Between 1993 and 1996, Mr. Gyngell was foreign policy adviser in the office of then-Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, and from 1991 until 1993 was First Assistant Secretary in the International Division of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Mr. Gyngell also spent a number of years as an analyst with ONA, where he worked on Southeast Asian issues (1978-80) and headed the branch dealing with great power relations at the end of the Cold War (1984-89). Mr. Gyngell is Chair of the Advisory Council of China Matters.

Mr. David Irvine AO

Mr. David Irvine AO led the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation as Director-General of Security from 2009-14. Prior to that he was the Director-General of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service from 2003-09. Mr. Irvine was a career diplomat who joined the Australian Foreign Service in 1970. His appointments included High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea (1996-99), Australian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Mongolia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2000-03), as well as postings in Rome, Jakarta (twice), Beijing and Port Moresby. He serves on the Advisory Board of at the Centre for Military and Security Law at the Australian National University.

Ms. Linda Jakobson

Ms. Linda Jakobson is the Founding Director of China Matters. She is also a Visiting Professor at the US Studies Centre at Sydney University and a Non-Resident Fellow at the Lowy Institute for International Policy. From 2011 to 2013, she served as the Lowy Institute's East Asia Program Director. Before moving to Sydney in 2011, Ms Jakobson lived and worked in China for more than 20 years and published six books on Chinese and East Asian society. Her last position in Beijing was as Director of the China and Global Security Programme and Senior Researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) from 2009-2011. Of the numerous publications Ms. Jakobson has authored, the most relevant for China Matters' inaugural meeting is *Australia-China Ties: In Search of Political Trust* (Lowy Institute Policy Brief, 2011). Ms. Jakobson's current research focuses on US-China relations, Australia-China relations, maritime security in Indo-Pacific Asia, and China's Arctic activities.

Lt. Gen. Peter Leahy AC (Ret.)

Lt. Gen. Peter Leahy AC (Ret.) concluded his career in the Army in 2008, as Chief of the Army with the rank of Lieutenant General. He served in this appointment for 6 years. His period of command was marked by the continuous global deployment of Australian soldiers on high tempo, complex and demanding combat operations. He was also responsible for the rapid

expansion and development of the Army to meet the changing demands of modern conflict. Since leaving the Army, he has joined the University of Canberra as a Professor and become the foundation Director of the National Security Institute. He has been appointed to the Boards of Codan Limited, Electro Optic Systems Holdings Limited and Citadel Group Limited. Additionally, he is a member of the Defence South Australia Advisory Board, Chairman of the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal Committee in the ACT, Chairman of the charity 'Soldier On' and a Trustee of the Prince's Charities Australia. He also serves on the Advisory Council of China Matters.

Mr. Andrew Parker

Mr. Andrew Parker is a Sydney-based Partner at PwC where he leads the Australian firm's Asia Practice. Mr. Parker joined Price Waterhouse in 1985, became a partner in 1999 and spent 12 years in PwC's London, Moscow and Jakarta offices where he gained considerable experience advising companies investing in foreign (and particularly developing) markets. Mr. Parker was previously the leader of PwC's Asian telecoms industry team. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Asia Society and a non-executive director of the Australia Indonesia Centre at Monash University. Mr. Parker was the lead author of PwC's landmark report on Australia's lack of business investment in Asia titled 'Passing us by'. Mr. Parker is on the Advisory Council of China Matters.

Mr. Andrew Stoler

Mr. Andrew Stoler served as Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organization in Geneva 1999-2002. He is currently based in Australia and is a consultant on international trade and investment issues and negotiations. He serves on the Advisory Committee of the European Centre for International Political Economy and is a member of the International Academic Advisory Board of the United States Studies Centre (USSC) at the University of Sydney. From 2003 until 2011, Mr Stoler was the foundation Executive Director of the Institute for International Trade at the University of Adelaide. Earlier, he had a long career as a negotiator with the Office of the United States Trade Representative in Washington and Geneva. Mr. Stoler is on the Advisory Council of China Matters.

Mr. Tom Switzer

Mr. Tom Switzer is a Research Associate at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney where he teaches courses in US politics, US foreign policy, US-Australia relations and Australian diplomatic history. He is also editor of *American Review*, the Centre's online journal of opinion, and host of *Between the Lines* on the ABC's Radio National. In 2009 he was a candidate in the Liberal Party primary for the federal seat of Bradfield in northern Sydney. In 2008 he was senior adviser to former federal Opposition Leader Brendan Nelson. He is former editor of *Spectator Australia* (2009-14), opinion page editor for *The Australian* (2001-08), an editorial writer at *The Australian Financial Review* (1998-2001) and an assistant editor at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC (1995-98). He has contributed articles to the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *Foreign Affairs*. He is a regular guest on Sky News, ABC News 24 and Radio Australia Asia Pacific.

Mr. Peter Varghese AO

Mr. Peter Varghese AO has served as Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade since December 2012. Previously, he was Australia's High Commissioner to India from 2009 to 2012. Between 2004 and 2009 he was Director-General of the Office of National Assessments. Before that he was the Senior Adviser (International) to the Prime Minister and Australia's High Commissioner to Malaysia from 2000 to 2002. Mr. Varghese has also held a wide range of senior DFAT positions in Canberra, including as Deputy Secretary (2002-03), First Assistant Secretary of the International Security Division (1997), Head of the White Paper Secretariat (1996-97), which drafted Australia's first white paper on foreign and trade policy, First Assistant Secretary of the Public Affairs Division (1994-96), and Assistant Secretary of Staffing (1991-92). During 1998-99 he was seconded to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as First Assistant Secretary of the International Division.

Professor Michael Wesley

Prof. Michael Wesley is Professor and Director of the School of International, Political & Strategic Studies at the Australian National University. He was Executive Director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy from 2009 to 2012 and Director of the Asia Institute at Griffith University from 2004 to 2009. Prof. Wesley has published extensively and has authored several books on foreign policy, including *The Howard Paradox: Australian Diplomacy in Asia*. He won the 2011 John Button Prize for Best Writing in Australian Politics for his book, *There Goes the Neighbourhood: Australia and the Rise of Asia*. Prof. Wesley is on the Advisory Council of China Matters.

Professor Hugh White

Prof. Hugh White has been Professor of Strategic Studies in the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University since 2004. Before that he was a senior official in the Australian Government. His recent publications include *Power Shift: Australia's Future Between Washington and Beijing* (2010) and *The China Choice: Why America Should Share Power* (2012). Prof. White is on the Advisory Council of China Matters.