

Second National Meeting of China Matters

Held in partnership with La Trobe Asia

20 November 2015

La Trobe City Campus, Level 20, 360 Collins Street, Melbourne

The objective of the meeting is to formulate specific policy proposals regarding Australia-China relations. The meeting will take place behind closed doors, and will be conducted off-the-record.

Each panel will consist of three panellists and a moderator. Each panellist will be given eight minutes to make remarks and is encouraged to take a stand on a controversial issue relating to the session focus. The moderator will then probe the issue(s) further with the panellists before opening up the discussion to everyone. Comments are expected to be maximum four minutes.

The 'jazz club style' format of the meeting is designed to create a conversation between peers. While panellists are expected to help lead the conversation, their remarks must be brief, so that the majority of the session is an open back-and-forth among all of the participants.

0830 Morning tea and coffee

0900 **Welcome** Prof. **John Dewar**, Vice-Chancellor La Trobe University
Ms. **Linda Jakobson**, Founding Director, China Matters

0915 – 1040 **Session I** **What does China want from the region? How should Australia respond?**

Panellists: Mr. **Richard Maude**, Director-General, Office of National Assessments

Mr. **Dennis Richardson** AO, Secretary, Department of Defence

Ms. **Linda Jakobson**, Founding Director, China Matters; Visiting Professor at the US Studies Centre at the University of Sydney

Moderator: Prof. **Nick Bisley**, Executive Director, La Trobe Asia

Panellists and participants are asked to focus on China's regional ambitions in light of China's recent maritime activities and Xi Jinping's emphasis on the need for China to unwaveringly defend its sovereignty, and recent statements on China's regional ambitions by Australian government ministers and a number of federal departmental secretaries.

Key questions: How will China use its power? If China's economic growth continues, in what ways can China be expected to attempt to counterbalance American influence in the region? How should Australia respond? Deterrence? Accommodation? What can be expected of China as a regional actor if its economy falters?

1040 – 1100 Coffee break

1100 – 1230 **Session II** **China's economic environment under Xi Jinping: what are the implications for Australian business?**

Panellists: Ms. **Tracy Colgan**, President and Managing Director of China Operations, Kamsky Associates, Inc; Chair, AustCham Beijing
Mr. **Graham Fletcher**, First Assistant Secretary, North Asia Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Mr. **Tim Lane**, Chief Adviser – China Relations, Rio Tinto; Member of Advisory Council, China Matters

Moderator: Mr. **Laurie Smith**, Board Member, Australia China Business Council; Member of Advisory Council, China Matters

Panellists and participants are asked to discuss China's economic environment under Xi Jinping and the impacts on both Australian businesses in China and Chinese investment in Australia.

Key questions: What changes have taken place as part of China's economic rebalancing and how might Australian businesses need to adjust? How have the regulatory, political and strategic decisions made since Xi Jinping came to power, including the anti-corruption campaign, affected the business environment for Australians and for Chinese foreign investors? Are there concrete measures the Australian government should contemplate to manage possible increased risks, or should they be solely managed by business?

1230 – 1330 Lunch break

1330 – 1500 **Session III** **The PRC's engagement with Australian society: how should Australia respond?**

Panellists: Prof. **John Fitzgerald**, President, Australian Academy of the Humanities; Chair, Asia-Pacific Centre for Social Impact & Philanthropy, Swinburne University of Technology
Mr. **Chris Moraitis** PSM, Secretary, Attorney General's Department
Prof. **Simon Evans**, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), the University of Melbourne

Moderator: Prof. **Michael Wesley**, Director, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU; Member of Advisory Council, China Matters

Panellists and participants are asked to discuss issues related to the PRC authorities' outreach activities in Australia, ranging from PRC involvement in Chinese-language media outlets to the PRC government's engagement with Australian and Chinese citizens, particularly students living in Australia.

Key questions: Should the outreach activities of the Chinese government be of particular interest to the Australian government? Should the Australian government more actively promote an understanding of Australian values among Chinese citizens living in Australia and what measures might they adopt?

1500 – 1515 Coffee break

1515 – 1630 **Session IV** **Wrap-up discussion about specific policy recommendations**

Moderator: Dr. **Bates Gill**, Board Director, China Matters