

## Media Roundup Issue 41 (07/10/17 – 13/10/17)

### 1. ABC, Fairfax accuse Chau Chak Wing of 'betraying' Australia

**07/10/2017**

**Primrose Riordan  
The Australian**

Lawyers for the ABC and Fairfax Media allege there were “reasonable grounds to believe” a billionaire businessman was spying for China.

Chau Chak Wing, an Australian citizen of 20 years, lodged a defamation claim against ABC and Fairfax in July over a series of reports the property developer has claimed falsely made him out to be a “disloyal” person who had used his - influence to advance the interests of China.

Lawyers for the ABC and Fairfax yesterday filed documents in their defence in the Federal Court in a matter where Dr Chau seeks damages, interest and costs.

Instead of rejecting the substance of the defamation action, the documents state that ABC and Fairfax believe there is “reasonable grounds” to believe Dr Chau “betrayed” Australia.

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/abc-fairfax-accuse-chau-chak-wing-of-betraying-australia/news-story/83003f79af39625306a423d2b925840a>

### 2. DFAT head Frances Adamson warns China to get used to scrutiny

**09/10/2017**

**Primrose Riordan  
The Australian**

DFAT head Frances Adamson has told universities to remain free of foreign interference in a speech to a Chinese government funded Confucius Institute in Adelaide last night.

She has also delivered a pointed message to the Chinese government, saying they should get used to scrutiny of their activities abroad as their influence grows.

In an interview with *The Australian* in September, the peak body representing Australia's elite universities acknowledged there have been "isolated" instances of Chinese government interference on campuses.

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/dfat-head-frances-adamson-warns-china-to-get-used-to-scrutiny/news-story/98c7e65ff6d738a8abb53f18061aff5>

### 3. The Giant Awakens

**10/2017**

**Various authors;** includes contributions from **Linda Jakobson & Jackson**

**Kwok** (China Matters)

**Vision Times**

The Chinese government's vast sphere of influence has been a widely debated topic over the past few months. In many instances, discussions have blurred the lines between China – a country with a rich history of 5,000 years – and the Chinese government – currently controlled by the Chinese Communist Party.

We invite over twenty leading China experts and community commentators to discuss their views on the influence of the Chinese government and the resulting impact on Australia as a nation in this spectacular collection of eye witness accounts, personal narratives, opinions and analysis in *The Giant Awakens*.

*Read more:* <https://www.visiontimes.com.au/the-giant-awakens/>

### 4. Chinese students should feel free to speak up in Australia, says DFAT head

**09/10/2017**

**Kirsty Needham**

**Sydney Morning Herald**

Australia's top foreign policy official has encouraged Chinese students at Australian universities to speak up if they hear something they disagree with, to gain an "authentic Australian education".

"The silencing of anyone in our society – from students to lecturers to politicians – is an affront to our values. Enforced silence runs counter to academic

freedom," warned Frances Adamson, the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Ms Adamson, a former ambassador to China, delivered the Confucius Institute annual lecture at the University of Adelaide, saying Australia and China were only just getting to know one another.

She cautioned against allowing the flourishing trade relationship to run on autopilot.

*Read more:*

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/chinese-students-should-feel-free-to-speak-up-in-australia-says-dfat-head-20171009-gyx4nx.html>

## 5. Education Minister urges universities to be vigilant over Chinese influence on campuses

**10/10/2017**

**Stephanie Borys**

**ABC News Online**

Federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham has reminded Australian universities to be vigilant about their academic integrity and independence.

His comments follow increasing concerns about China's influence within the nation's higher education sector.

Addressing a Chinese Government-funded academic institute event over the weekend, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade secretary Frances Adamson told universities to remain secure and resilient against foreign interference.

She also reaffirmed the importance of public debate in the classroom.

Her comments have been backed by Senator Birmingham, who told AM different opinions are welcomed in Australian education.

*Read more:*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-10/universities-urged-to-be-vigilant-over-chinese-influence/9032840>

## 6. Harry Harris, China's least favourite American, is firming as Trump's man in Oz

**10/10/2017**  
**Peter Hartcher**  
**Sydney Morning Herald**

The Trump White House is now carrying out consultations in Washington to test reactions to the appointment of Admiral Harry Harris as ambassador to Australia, and the reactions so far are strongly positive.

This signals a rising likelihood that the four-star commander of America's Pacific Command will be nominated to the post, a very deliberate message of commitment to the military alliance with Australia.

Who is the intended recipient of the message? The first is Canberra as the US seeks to reassure its anxious ally. The second is Beijing. The Trump administration wants to tell China that it cannot divide Australia from America.

"The last American four-star to take up residence in Australia was Douglas MacArthur", the general who waged the allied Pacific war against Japan from his headquarters in Brisbane, a Washington observer put it. A four-star admiral is the highest military rank in the US navy in peacetime.

*Read more:*

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/the-china-hawk-most-likely-to-be-trumps-man-in-australia-20171009-gyx1ei.html>

## 7. Chinese Australians speak out against Communist Party meddling

**10/10/2017**  
**Primrose Riordan**  
**The Australian**

Xiaogang Zhang, 61, a Cultural Revolution survivor who has been intimidated in a NSW election, removed from a Chinese organisation in Australia and arrested and questioned on a return trip to China, has spoken out against Chinese Communist Party meddling in Australia.

Mr Zhang is one of multiple Chinese Australians who have revealed their experiences of what they believe is coercion linked to the CCP, some for the first time, in a new issue of local paper, *Vision China Times*.

The allegations include claims of unfavourable reporters being kicked out of community events and surveillance of local choirs and community groups.

University of Technology Sydney professor Chongyi Feng, who was detained on his last visit to China, contributed to the issue. He said some people became involved in government-linked organisations for personal gain. “Despite some overseas Chinese community leaders holding the same views as the Chinese Communist Party, many more behave this way for self-interest.”

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/chinese-australians-speak-out-against-communist-party-meddling/news-story/088af871072c7672131bed225a54c209>

## 8. DFAT chief Frances Adamson tells unis not to tolerate foreign interference

**10/10/2017**

**Primrose Riordan**

**The Australian**

The head of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Frances Adamson, has urged Australian universities to resist foreign interference and warned Beijing to expect greater scrutiny of its activities abroad as its influence expands.

In an address to the Chinese government-funded Confucius Institute at the University of Adelaide, the DFAT secretary told international students it was “an affront” to Australian values to try to silence those with different views. Amid growing concerns about Chinese influence on Australian campuses, Ms Adamson encouraged students to respectfully engage with new ideas and pushed universities to “remain true” to their values and stand up to external influence.

“We have seen attempts at untoward influence and interference,” Ms Adamson said. “When confronted with awkward choices it is up to us to choose our response — whether to make an uncomfortable compromise or decide instead to remain true to our values, immune from intolerance or external influence, as Adelaide University’s founders envisaged.”

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/dfat-chief-frances-adamson-tells-unis-not-to-tolerate-foreign-interference/news-story/5e12c71efeab01fa950e575a863d1311>

## 9. National security: Brandis laws to protect critical assets

**10/10/2017**

**Simon Benson  
The Australian**

Businesses and operators of critical infrastructure across the country — including water, electricity and ports — would be subject to federal government direction powers that require them to defend against spying from foreign agencies, terrorism and other national security risks, under proposed legislation.

Attorney-General George Brandis will today release draft legislation that would require infrastructure deemed critical to national security to mitigate its operations against attacks involving foreign state-based infiltration, sabotage and coercion, or face statutory orders to upgrade their defences.

The “last resort” directions powers would be invoked in the event of an adverse finding by ASIO that sufficient measures had not been undertaken to mitigate against the threat.

The new laws have been prompted by growing foreign-ownership interest in Australian assets as well as the increased threat of terrorism.

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/national-security/national-security-brandis-laws-to-protect-critical-assets/news-story/8d93d9e0355f3811ed557cda795d6b54>

## 10. Australia China Business Council: Chinese tourist numbers to triple

**11/10/2017**

**Glenda Korporaal  
The Australian**

The number of Chinese tourists coming to Australia is expected to triple from a million a year last year to 3.3 million a year by 2026, according to a report to be released today by the Australia China Business Council.

The organisation says predictions from Tourism Australia show a much larger than projected surge in Chinese tourism to Australia as a result of the rapid

growth of China's middle class and other changes, including a new open-skies agreement between China and Australia.

The organisation says income from Chinese tourists is expected to jump by almost 50 per cent to \$13 billion a year by 2020.

But council president John Brumby has warned that Australia should not be taking the growth in Chinese tourism for granted.

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/australia-china-business-council-chinese-tourist-numbers-to-triple/news-story/8402f404a966ee8d1e6f9ba712658645>

## 11. In the US–AU–China love triangle, actions speak louder than words

**11/10/2017**

**James Laurenceson**  
**East Asia Forum**

An enthusiastic, if somewhat odd-looking debate has flared in Australia this year about whether China or the United States is the country's most important economic partner. The debate has served a useful role in highlighting the respective arguments and putting numbers and analysis into the public domain. But the reason the debate is taking place is rarely declared up front.

After all, everyone agrees that China is Australia's biggest trade partner and the United States is Australia's biggest investment partner. So why does one country need to stand above the other to claim the crown of Australia's *most* important *economic* partner? Are strong relationships with both mutually exclusive in a highly interdependent world?

It's telling that apart from the debate featuring Australian commentators, the claim to being Australia's most important economic partner is only coming from one foreign government — the United States.

*Read more:*

<http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2017/10/11/in-the-us-au-china-love-triangle-actions-speak-louder-than-words/>

## 12. Australia's One-China Policy and why it matters

**11/10/2017**

**Mark Harrison**

**The Interpreter**

Australia is in the midst of a vociferous debate over China. Reporting and commentary on Chinese Party-state sway over Australia's public and political institutions has been met by a strong pushback by those who emphasise the opportunities presented by China's influence. The debate is important and overdue in itself, and is a rare expression of dissent within Australia's policymaking elites. However, it has also demonstrated how important aspects of Australia-China relations are misunderstood in public institutions.

References in the national media to Australia's One-China Policy were particularly startling. After Chinese international students criticised a University of Newcastle lecturer for referring to Taiwan as a country, some commentators defended the students' behaviour on the grounds that they were simply reiterating Australia's One-China Policy, which is that Taiwan is a part of China.

The current national debate has made the long-standing failure of our public institutions to properly understand our relationship with China very visible. Hopefully this debate will produce the much more robust foundations we need to successfully manage the relationship in the future.

*Read more:*

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/australia-s-one-china-policy-and-why-it-matters>

## 13. Australia's oddly absent Belt and Road Strategy

**12/10/2017**

**Nick Bisley** (member of the China Matters Advisory Council)

**The Interpreter**

In a recent speech at the University of Adelaide's Confucius Institute, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Secretary Frances Adamson tackled the controversial issue of Chinese students in Australia. Her comments were both shrewd and part of a larger pattern of Australian government policy signalling toward Beijing, in which Canberra is showing a more vocal defence of the country's liberal values and of its preferred international order.



But in the question and answer session with Adamson, a rather more muddled aspect of Australia's China policy reared its head. In response to a question about China's 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI), the Secretary's comments revealed the scepticism that exists in Canberra about the initiative and the lack of strategic thinking about just how to respond to what is the most important international gambit of Xi Jinping's presidency.

While the coverage of Adamson's BRI remarks was not as widespread as her comments about students, they nonetheless prompted some commentary in traditional and social media. Reactions ranged from support for Australian caution to calls for Australia to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and seize the opportunity to strengthen strategic and economics ties by joining BRI.

*Read more:*

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/australia-s-oddly-absent-belt-and-road-strategy>

## 14. Australian property is a bargain for wealthy Chinese buyers

**12/10/2017**

**David Scutt**

**Business Insider Australia**

Australia has some of the most expensive housing in the world, particularly Sydney and Melbourne, the nation's largest and most expensive cities.

However, despite sitting at levels that many now deem to be out of reach for the average Australian, especially those looking to enter the market for the first time, the high cost of Australian housing doesn't seem to discourage Chinese investors from buying into the market.

Indeed, if recent figures from Credit Suisse are anything to go by, even with high prices and tougher capital controls restricting the amount of money that can leave the country, rather than discouraging Chinese investors, demand for Aussie property only continues to grow.

*Read more:*

<https://www.businessinsider.com.au/china-investment-australia-property-cost-2017-10>

## 15. Protecting academic integrity

**12/10/2017**

**The Australian**

Australia's third largest export industry, international education, and much else are at stake amid growing concerns over Chinese attempts to influence Australian universities. The warning by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade head Frances Adamson that universities should resist foreign interference and for Beijing to expect greater scrutiny of its activities abroad is timely. Academics at several universities have been targeted in Chinese social media campaigns this year after complaints from Chinese students about "offensive" teaching materials. Ms Adamson struck the right note in Adelaide on Sunday when she advised international students to "respectfully engage", not silently withdraw or blindly condemn when they encountered ideas they found unusual, unsettling or wrong: "The silencing of anyone in our society — from students to lecturers to politicians — is an affront to our values."

Australia's hard-won reputation for academic quality would be damaged if universities allowed their curriculums, teaching or academic standards to pander to the complaints of any group of international students. Our reputation for excellence has drawn 550,000 international students from 190 countries to Australia this year, contributing \$28.6 billion to the economy. Chinese students comprise 27 per cent of the total.

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/editorials/protecting-academic-integrity/news-story/aa94ff31ca171939eff96c9ee33049af>

## 16. Chinese daigous: 'Personal shoppers' warned about Aussie fakes

**12/10/2017**

**Rashida Yosufzai**

**SBS News Online**

Australia's network of 'daigous' are being urged buy products featuring the Australian Made logo.

Australia's underground network of daigous – buying agents who purchase local products to sell to Chinese consumers – are being urged to choose goods with the Australia Made logo to avoid rip-offs and fakes.

It is estimated that there are tens of thousands of active daigou – translated to 'buying on behalf of' - who buy and sell Australian products including baby formula, supplements and skincare.

"The daigou collective are very influential in China, so if they are going to be spruiking genuine Australian products, we want to make sure they're actually genuine," says Ben Lazarro from Australian Made - the not-for-profit group that promotes the Aussie green-and-gold logo.

It's a highly lucrative channel for local brands to gain access to middle-class Chinese consumers through such 'agents' who sell goods via Chinese social media.

*Read more:*

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2017/10/12/chinese-daigous-personal-shoppers-warned-about-aussie-fakes>

## 17. MMG chief Jerry Jiao: China hungry for mining investment

**13/10/2017**

**Matt Chambers**

**The Australian**

The Melbourne-based head of Chinese state-controlled miner MMG says the Asian nation remains hungry for new mining investment and that MMG will be one of its chief resource investment vehicles.

In his first public outing in Australia since taking over from mining sector veteran Andrew Michelmore in February, MMG managing director Jerry Jiao said China's One Belt, One Road initiative and the nation's push for electric cars would fuel increased commodities growth. And securing supply of resources remained high on the agenda.

"We now face a new improving cycle and I am optimistic for demand," Mr Jiao told a Melbourne Mining Club lunch yesterday.

"I worry very much, however, about where the supply will come from."

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/mmg-chief-jerry-jiao-china-hungry-for-mining-investment/news-story/255007b7e654571fbfb0fd78c4ec6a59>

## 18. Emirates' Tim Clark: China airlines' rise to affect all carriers

**13/10/2017**

**Annabel Hepworth  
The Australian**

The international expansion of Chinese airlines will “significantly” affect the global aviation sector, Gulf carrier Emirates president Sir Tim Clark says.

Sir Tim, in Australia this week to renew the Emirates partnership with Qantas, said the rise of Chinese airlines was “something that we all need to watch, not just the Gulf carriers”.

“I think global aviation is going to be significantly affected by the growth of the Chinese carriers,” Sir Tim told *The Australian*.

“And they have, it seems, aspirations for global reach ... I now think we are seeing the beginning of an outreach, call it what you like.”

Chinese airlines have been boosting capacity and sending bigger aircraft to Australia in the wake of an open skies-style agreement struck between the two countries last December that got rid of restrictions on passenger capacity for both sides.

China Southern is expected to put on three flights a week between Guangzhou and Cairns from December. Xiamen Airlines is putting on a twice-weekly link between Melbourne and Hangzhou, while Air China will start direct flights between Beijing and Brisbane.

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/aviation/emirates-tim-clark-china-airlines-rise-to-affect-all-carriers/news-story/ae6496f789b6d2c9ba65d17e8164b37a>