

First China Matters National Meeting

22 May 2015, Canberra

Held in partnership with the **Australian Centre on China in the World (CIW)** and **Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs** at the Australian National University.

Location: Australian Centre on China in the World, Fellows Lane, ANU, Canberra

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 seven minutes to make remarks and is encouraged to take a stand on a controversial issue relating to the panel 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 Welcoming remarks

0915 – 1045 **Panel I What does China want from the region?**

Panellists: Mr. **Peter Varghese** AO, Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Mr. **Peter Baxter**, Deputy Secretary, Department of Defence

Lt. Gen. **Peter Leahy** AC (Ret.), Director, National Security Institute

Moderator: Prof. **Michael Wesley**, Director, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs

Panellists and participants are encouraged to focus on China's regional ambitions in light of Xi Jinping's references to a 'community of common destiny' and an Asian security concept, as well as China's actions in its 'near seas'.

How will China use its power? If China's economic growth and military modernisation continues, in what ways can China be expected to attempt to counterbalance American influence in the region? How should Australia respond? Deterrence? Accommodation? What if China begins to wane?

1045 – 1100 Coffee break

1100 – 1230 **Panel II** **How should Australia prepare for an alternative regional economic order?**

Panellists: Mr. **Allan Gyngell** AO, Adjunct Professor, Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU; former Director General, Office of National Assessments

Mr. **Andrew Parker**, Deals Partner and Asia Practice Leader, PwC

Mr. **Andrew Stoler**, former Deputy Director, WTO

Moderator: Prof. **Hugh White**, Professor of Strategic Studies, ANU

Panellists and participants are encouraged to explore ways for Australia to engage with China if an alternative China-led economic order in the region emerges.

How will the diverse initiatives that China has created transform the economic order (for example the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, AIIB, Maritime Silk Road, 'One Belt, One Road', etc)? How can Australia influence China in the formation and governance of these emergent initiatives?

1230 – 1400 **Lunch** **Keynote address** by Prof. **Geremie Barmé**, Director, Australian Centre on China in the World: 'Seventy Years On & Australia's Unfinished Twentieth Century'.

1400 – 1530 **Panel III** **Chinese infrastructure investment in Australia: Are concerns warranted?**

Panellists: Mr. **David Irvine** AO, former Director General of Security (ASIO)

Mr. **Stephen Byron**, CEO, Canberra Airport

Mr. **Angus Armour**, Deputy Secretary, NSW Trade & Investment

Moderator: Mr. **Jason Fitts**, Water Regulation, Essential Services Commission

Panellists and participants are encouraged to explore the challenges of increased Chinese investment in key infrastructure sectors and discuss measures with which the federal government departments and state governments could manage these challenges.

What are the pros, cons, and risks? Why was the recent case of possible Chinese investment in NSW utilities controversial?

1530-1600 **Wrap-up discussion about specific policy recommendations**

Moderator: Dr. **Bates Gill**, CEO, United States Studies Centre