

Debaters



Jeremy Thorpe, Partner and Chief Economist, PwC

Jeremy is a regulatory economist, a member of PwC's national Economics and Policy team and PwC's Chief Economist. His areas of specialisation include: impact assessment, using macroeconomic models of the Australian economy to assist public and private organisations to understand the regional and sectoral impacts of projects and proposed reforms; pricing and cost recovery of government bodies; regulatory reform and 'red tape' analysis; and copyright, where he provides advice in the setting of copyright royalty rates in Australia and overseas, and assesses proposals for changes to copyright law. Jeremy has undertaken assignments in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, the Philippines, Jamaica, Italy, Portugal and Finland.



John McCarthy AO, Former Senior Diplomat

John was an Australian career foreign service officer from 1968 to 2009. John's posts included Ambassador to Vietnam, Mexico, Thailand, the United States, Indonesia, Japan and High Commissioner to India. At DFAT, positions included Chief of Staff to the then Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock, Head of the Legal Division and Deputy Secretary. Since 2009, he has undertaken special assignments for the Minister of Foreign Affairs and has served as Chair of the Australia-India Council and Co-convenor of the Australia-Indonesia Dialogue. He is an Officer of the Order of Australia, and has honorary doctorates from Murdoch and Griffith universities.



Catherine Perry, Investment Banking Analyst, Citigroup

Catherine has recently been recognised by the AFR and GradConnection as Australia's most promising young leader in Finance. Before her current role, working in mergers and acquisitions at Citigroup, Catherine worked for the Federal Minister for Financial Services and Revenue whilst completing her Masters in Finance at the Australian National University (ANU). Aside from finance, Catherine has extensive experience with China, having graduated with a Bachelor of Asian Studies (Mandarin) from ANU, where she was awarded the prestigious Tuckwell Scholarship, Westpac Bicentennial Foundation Scholarship, and first place in the Oceanic division of the international Chinese Bridge (汉语桥) Language Competition.



Aaron Lovell, Policy Officer North East Asia, International Policy Division, Department of Defence

Aaron joined the Australian Department of Defence in 2016. He worked briefly in Army Headquarters and Defence Industry Policy Division, before moving to the International Policy Division to join the North East Asia section in February 2017. While in the North East Asia Section, Aaron has been responsible for managing Australia's bilateral defence relationship with China and developing policy advice on China and the Korean peninsula. Aaron has a background in International Relations and Mandarin language. He is currently completing a Masters of National Security Policy at the Australian National University.

Moderator



Mercedes Page, CEO, Young Australians in International Affairs; Intelligence Coordinator, Thales

Mercedes is the founder and CEO of Young Australians in International Affairs, a not-for profit organisation promoting the voice and engagement of young Australians in international affairs and dedicated to building the high calibre next generation of leaders Australia needs to navigate an increasingly complex and contested Indo-Pacific century. Mercedes works at Thales Australia. Before joining Thales, she worked for the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. She is a non-resident WSD-Handa Fellow and a member of the Young Leaders Program at the Pacific Forum, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). She sits on the youth working group of the Global Diplomatic Forum.