

Media Roundup Issue 101 (08/12/18 – 14/12/18)

1. Huawei dominates high-level Australia-China talks led by Howard

08/12/18

Kirsty Needham

The Sydney Morning Herald

The Huawei controversy dominated a high-level meeting in Beijing between Australia and China, in the wake of the dramatic arrest of Huawei executive heiress Meng Wanzhou.

Former prime minister John Howard led the Australian delegation at annual talks and later met with China's most senior diplomat, Politburo member Yang Jiechi, at the Zhongnanhai leader's compound.

Yang, a top advisor on the United States and a friend of the Bush family, noted Howard had been the Australian prime minister for 11 years and said China remembered his "important contributions to bilateral ties".

"The continued growth of Australia China relations requires joint efforts from both sides," he said.

Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/huawei-dominates-high-level-australia-china-talks-led-by-howard-20181208-p50l00.html>

2. Top End deals with China outpacing others

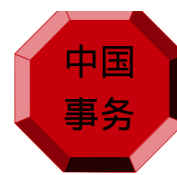
09/12/18

Amos Aikman

The Australian

The Northern Territory has -almost 10 times more agreements with China than it does with the US and Japan combined, excluding those related to defence and the Ichthys liquefied natural gas project.

The jurisdiction closest to Chinese President Xi Jinping's Maritime Silk Road has at least 38 Chinese deals, to do with everything from economic development to education, compared with just three with Japan and one with the US.



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The Territory president of the Australia China Business Council, Daryl Guppy, believes the Territory government is already co-operating with China's strategic Belt and Road Initiative unofficially. "Territory investment proposals are being formed in a BRI context," Mr Guppy said.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/arts/review/coming-to-grips-with-asias-growing-military-ascendancy/news-story/9a0f97a7ca6c074c76b2f15ea752580b>

3. Australia at risk of becoming collateral damage in US-China Huawei row

10/12/18

Michael Smith

The Australian Financial Review

Australian executives living in China are well aware of the risks of becoming collateral damage in a political dispute between the two countries.

Former Rio Tinto executive Stern Hu served nine years in a Chinese prison in a sentence which many saw as payback for the mining giant's withdrawal from a joint venture with a state-owned company.

Mr Hu's name has come up a lot since the arrest of a senior executive at Chinese telecoms giant Huawei in Canada become public knowledge a week ago. The executive's arrest in 2009 at a low point in Australia's relationship with China highlighted how the lines between business and politics can become easily blurred in the world's second-largest economy.

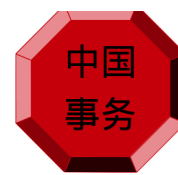
Read more (Paywall): <https://www.afr.com/news/world/asia/australia-at-risk-of-collateral-damage-in-uschina-huawei-row-20181210-h18ydm>

4. Howard deflects Chinese criticism

10/12/18

Primrose Riordan

The Australian



John Howard defended Australian media and political debate from Chinese criticism at a high-level dialogue in Beijing last week, in a meeting described as reflecting a warmer relationship with China.

The Australian understands the mood was positive, despite some concerns raised by the Chinese side over Australian official and media commentary and rhetoric about China.

Chinese state media and senior diplomats have publicly lashed Australian media for reporting on Chinese government interference in Australia. Beijing's officials have also argued Australian media reports too many "negative" stories about China.

Read more: <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/howard-deflects-chinese-criticism/news-story/742600d3d9ee6b1016c17a017d0deb52>

5. Chinese tourists and international students help drive asylum claims up 311 per cent

10/12/18

Robert Burton-Bradley

ABC News

The number of Chinese nationals applying for refugee asylum in Australia has risen by 311 per cent in just one year, according to figures from the Department of Home Affairs.

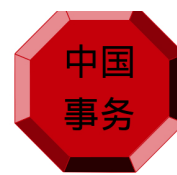
Onshore protection visa applications from those who arrived by plane from the People's Republic of China jumped from 2,269 in 2016-17 to 9,315 in 2017-18, the data reveals.

Despite the surge in claims, Chinese nationals had one of the lowest success rates for protection visas, with the Department only recognising 10 per cent of those claims as being genuine.

Read more: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-10/chinese-nationals-claiming-refugee-asylum-surges-311-per-cent/10590478>

6. Army queries for Labor MP Pierre Yang's China Links

10/12/18



Nick Butterfly and Geof Parry
The West Australian

Embattled WA Labor MP Pierre Yang could face a please explain from the Australian Army, with the backbencher admitting he failed to tell the Defence Department of his links to Chinese Communist Party-linked bodies.

Mr Yang, who finds himself at the centre of a damaging factional brawl amid claims of ethnic branch stacking, said he was seeking advice from the Australian Defence Force as to whether he must declare past membership of the groups.

Mr Yang sobbed last week as he told Parliament he had made a mistake in not disclosing his membership of two Chinese organisations, which appear to advocate policies such as China's territorial grab over the South China Sea.

He has since cancelled his memberships with the North-East China Federation and the Association of Great China.

Read more: <https://thewest.com.au/politics/state-politics/army-queries-for-labor-mp-pierre-yangs-china-links-ng-b881044985z>

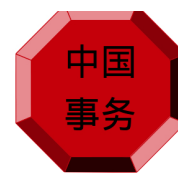
7. Personal touch key to China ties, says John Howard

11/12/18
David Uren
The Australian

John Howard says personal contact between leaders is the key to maintaining a good relationship with China and says it should not be jeopardised by the pre-eminence of the US alliance.

Addressing the National Press Club ahead of the release of the 1996-97 cabinet documents on January 1, Mr Howard said Australia did not have to choose between the US and China. "We sell ourselves short if we don't think we can manage our relationships with both, understanding that we'll always be closer to the US because we have values and history in common," he said.

Mr Howard said talk of a new cold war between the US and China was "overblown" and Australia needed to be pragmatic in its dealings with both.



Read more (Paywall): <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/personal-touch-key-to-china-ties-says-john-howard/news-story/1ded400b9cfc0a4bba695f093971a5c5>

8. China's thirst for baby formula creating problems for Australian shoppers and staff

11/12/2018

Rebecca Puddy and Rhett Burnie

ABC News

An ABC investigation has uncovered a sophisticated network of Chinese personal shoppers known as daigou operating in Adelaide's CBD to source in-demand baby formula as soon as it hits supermarket shelves.

While it has been a decade since the 2008 Chinese milk scandal, when melamine-laced formula killed six infants and made 300,000 sick, the country's demand for safe baby formula continues.

It has raised concerns from Australian parents struggling to access formula and retail workers who said they were being abused while monitoring limits on purchases.

Over a series of days, the ABC witnessed shoppers in Adelaide's Rundle Mall communicating with each other through mobile phones and posting lookouts in supermarkets posing as shoppers to monitor stock.

Read more: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-11/abc-investigation-uncovers-chinese-baby-formula-shoppers/10594400>

9. Will Israel be China's back door to Australia?

12/12/18

Isaac Kfir

Asia and the Pacific Policy Society

The hosting of the Israel-China Innovation Conference in Jerusalem on 24-25 October 2018 highlighted the growing ties between Israel and China.

[...]



Australia and Israel signed a defence industry cooperation memorandum, with one of the aims being to set up the Australia-Israel Defence Industry Cooperation Joint Working Group. The goal was for Australia to benefit from Israel's world-leading innovation in cyber technologies, because as part of Australia's investment in defence, the government has allocated more than \$1.6 billion to expand Australia's innovation capabilities.

As Australian policymakers and businesses increasingly take the view that Chinese penetration of critical infrastructure assets should be curtailed, there will be more questions over the extent of China's investment and presence in Israel.

Read more: <https://www.policyforum.net/will-israel-be-chinas-back-door-to-australia/>

10. Australia-China talks back on track

12/12/2018

**Rowan Callick
The Australian**

The annual "high level dialogue" between Australia and China has confirmed the relationship is back on track at the official level.

But it's not just back to where we were. There's a subtle but crucial difference.

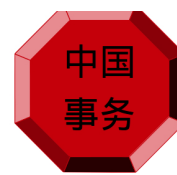
Most Australians experienced in the relationship have by now become aware the awkwardness that emerged, and which prompted an official deep freeze from Beijing, were not primarily caused by a sudden "anti-China" response on Canberra's part to "a static China".

It was respectfully but firmly pointed out during the recent dialogue, held in Beijing's beautiful Diaoyutai guesthouse under the Chatham House rule, that "China has changed, and is coming under much greater scrutiny everywhere".

Read more (Paywall): <https://bit.ly/2GcOUWJ>

11. China Resources, State Path Capital Fund seeks out Aussie healthcare companies

13/12/18



Carrie LaFrenz
Australian Financial Review

A new investment fund anchored by state-backed conglomerate China Resources Group is looking to take a range of Australian healthcare businesses to China, with plans to build a stem cell manufacturing facility in Shanghai.

China Resources Life Science Fund has joined forces with Hong Kong-based investment firm State Path Capital, which is headed by executive director Alan Kwan and chaired by Alistair Lam, the nephew of Hong Kong's richest person Li Ka-shing. The men last year dipped their toe in the Australian market after investing \$US18 million (\$25 million) in medical device company Bionic Vision Technologies, which they plan to publicly list mid next year on the Australian Securities Exchange.

CR Life Science Fund chief executive Jason Zhou said that the investment into developing technologies is the critical driver in bringing healthcare products and services to China, where there is a boom in demand.

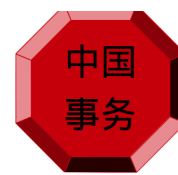
Read more (Paywall): <https://www.afr.com/business/health/china-resources-state-path-capital-fund-seeks-out-aussie-healthcare-companies-20181212-h190oh>

12. Uighur lawyer Nury Turkel says Australia should sanction Chinese officials

14/12/18
Lisa Murray
Australian Financial Review

Nury Turkel is apologetic on the phone. "I'm so sorry. I will be a little late. Don't shoot me." A friend is driving the US-based Uighur activist from Parramatta in western Sydney to lunch in the city and the traffic is terrible.

I watch as the tables in Fish at the Rocks fill up – one group celebrating a birthday, another enjoying a regular catch-up – and wonder if I have chosen the wrong restaurant. With its blue walls, cosy-looking bar and pictures of sail boats, it seems too cheery a setting to talk about what is happening in China, where up to 1 million Uighur Muslims have been detained in the western province of Xinjiang for "re-education". Turkel, chairman of the Uighur Human Rights Project (UHRP), insisted I choose the venue with the only stipulation that he doesn't eat



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pork – more out of habit than for religious reasons – and suggested a seafood restaurant instead.

I spot the 48-year-old rushing up to the restaurant in suit, red tie and sunglasses. He looks more Washington DC lawyer than political activist. Of course, he is both and is in Australia to raise awareness about the plight of Uighurs and pressure the Australian government to take a stronger stand on the mass-detention camps.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.afr.com/news/policy/foreign-affairs/uighur-activist-nury-turkel-says-australia-should-sanction-chinese-officials-20181210-h18y4k>