

## **A new China narrative for Australia**

### **Submission by Peter Varghese**

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft China narrative.

I think the big issue which is not addressed in the draft is how to deal with a China that is not interested in reaching mutually agreed rules. What do we do then?

That is why I think we cannot have an honest narrative which does not also canvass the need to constrain China's unacceptable behaviour through some new balancing arrangement which sits side by side with engagement. To think we can leave it with striving for mutual agreement on rules leaves us open to being seen as naive.

That said, I think the idea of a new narrative is a very good one and I commend you and the other authors for taking this initiative.

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