

## Media Roundup Issue 117 (13/04/19 – 18/04/19)

### 1. Testy relationship with China awaits next prime minister

**13/04/19**

**Glenda Korporaal**

**The Australian**

Whoever wins the federal election is going to have to work out how to approach increasingly strained relations with the country's largest trading partner, China.

This week has been a bad week for Australia-China ties, with Beijing reacting angrily to the allegations in the ABC's *Four Corners* on Monday night on Chinese influence in Australia, and continued reports of Australian coal being held up at ports in China.

Another rare insight into the limitations on the access for the Australian embassy in Beijing on some issues was revealed in a Senate estimates hearing that looked into the detention of Australian-Chinese writer and blogger Yang Hengjun, who was arrested in January as he arrived at Guangzhou airport from New York.

There have been unusually harsh words from the Chinese Foreign Ministry at what it sees as Australia's hypocrisy in its banning of Huawei technology for the 5G network on security grounds, while it passed legislation last year making it easier for Australian security agencies to demand local telecommunications companies give them secret access to phone and data information.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/world/testy-relationship-with-china-awaits-next-prime-minister/news-story/1eb3bb691e697aa006aed42637bc6e2f?nk=9510cbfa347cc9f571deb56c35ff86ae-1555372226>

### 2. In Australia, Muslims call for pressure on China over missing relatives

**13/04/19**

**Vicky Xiuzhong Xu and Jamie Tarabay**

**The New York Times**

Growing up as a member of the Uighur ethnic group in China's far west, Farhad Habibullah never felt that his people were oppressed by the state. He came from a family of Communist Party loyalists, part of an elite segment of Uighur society celebrated by the party as model minority members.

But now he has joined other Uighurs in doing what was once, to him, unthinkable — and unthinkably dangerous, even in his new home in Australia: calling for an independent Uighur nation.

“My parents worked for the Chinese Communist Party all their lives, and look at what has happened to them,” Mr. Habibullah said. They and several other relatives, he said, are among as many as one million Uighurs and other Muslims held in indoctrination camps in China.

“You could say I grew up under the red Chinese flag,” he said. “But now I think we have to fight for independence.”

About 3,000 Uighurs have found sanctuary in Australia. But as some of them draw attention to China’s camps, they are putting their adopted homeland in an awkward position, pressing it to speak out against its largest trading partner.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/13/world/australia/uighur-muslim-missing-relatives-australia.html>

### 3. China takes Australia's Huawei 5G ban to global trade umpire

**14/04/19**

**Kirsty Needham and Fergus Hunter**  
**The Sydney Morning Herald**

The Australian government says it will be standing by its ban on Huawei's participation in the rollout of ultra-fast 5G technology, rebuffing a Chinese complaint to the World Trade Organisation.

The complaint, made at a WTO meeting in Geneva on Friday, does not mention the telecommunications company by name but refers to Australia's "discriminatory market access prohibition on 5G equipment", according to the meeting's agenda seen by *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*.

The complaint has been lodged with the global trade umpire as the federal government has entered caretaker mode before the May 18 election.

Trade Minister Simon Birmingham said in a statement on Sunday that the government "stands by its decision in relation to 5G, which was not targeted at any one country or telecommunications company".

Senator Birmingham said Australia respected WTO processes, was "confident in our compliance" and would respond to China's questions about the ban in the usual way.

Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/china-takes-australia-s-huawei-5g-ban-to-global-trade-umpire-20190413-p51dwu.html>

#### 4. China ups the political pressure on Australia

**15/04/19**

**Jennifer Hewett**

**Australian Financial Review**

Australia's increasing political uncertainty about its relationship with China is hardly a big feature of this election campaign. Yet how Chinese intentions and practices play out over the next decade will be crucial to whether any Australian government will be able to deliver on its promises – with the bill coming due well before 2030.

Despite Australia's bottom-line budget reliance on strong resources exports to China, the extent of that dependence - and the impact of changes underway - are still under-appreciated in Australian national debate. The increase in prices for our coal and iron ore last year are why both sides of politics are able to argue about more money for tax cuts v more money for services while still professing adherence to fiscal virtue, for example. Just don't expect to hear too many detailed references from the Liberals or Labor to that particular budget safety net!

But the questions about what will happen goes well beyond direct trade concerns about the price and volume of Australia's key commodity exports - or even whether Donald Trump and Xi Jinping will decide it's in their mutual interest to do a trade deal that allows them both to declare victory of sorts.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.afr.com/news/policy/foreign-affairs/china-ups-the-political-pressure-on-australia-20190415-p51edi>

#### 5. Chinese firms lift Australian coal orders, as curbs tipped to end

**15/04/19**

**Cole Latimer and Kirsty Needham**

**The Sydney Morning Herald**

Chinese private power companies have started to buy contracts for Australian thermal coal, which could signal an end to China's import restrictions that have sent prices plummeting.

Earlier this year, China placed unofficial restrictions on Australian low-grade coal imports, forcing ships laden with thermal coal - which is used in power plants – to go through onerous customs procedures. Other nations such as Indonesia have not faced the same restrictions.

Opinion has divided on whether the restrictions have been driven by economic or political factors, with some suggesting China is punishing Australia for its ban on telecommunications company Huawei.

Analysts said the rise in new contracts may signal an end to the restrictions.

Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/chinese-resume-australian-coal-buying-may-signal-end-of-restrictions-20190415-p51e95.html>

## 6. Victoria on the guest list for Xi Jinping's Belt and Road party

**15/04/19**

**Michael Smith**

**Australian Financial Review**

Victorian premier Daniel Andrews will attend Chinese president Xi Jinping's forum to promote its controversial Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) infrastructure program next week, as Australia's relationship with Beijing comes under fresh scrutiny ahead of the federal election.

The visit by Mr Andrews and Australian business groups to China comes as tensions resurface in Australia's relationship with China over a ban on Huawei's 5G equipment and restrictions on Australia's coal imports. China has complained about Australia's ban to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

While the election campaign means Australia cannot send a federal minister to the second forum celebrating Mr Xi 's signature foreign policy initiative, about 40 heads of state, including Russian president Vladimir Putin, are expected to attend.

Victoria broke ranks with the federal government in October and signed a memorandum of understanding with China on the BRI. At the time, Mr Morrison accused Victoria of not being "helpful" through its unilateral participation in the program, which is viewed suspiciously in Canberra and Washington as a vehicle for Chinese expansion regionally and globally.



Read more (Paywall): <https://www.afr.com/news/world/asia/victoria-on-the-guest-list-for-xi-jinping-s-belt-and-road-party-20190415-p51edw>

## 7. Australia to 'pay' for Huawei ban, China's Global Times says

**16/04/19**

**Glena Korporaal**

**The Australian**

Australia would "pay" for its ban on Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei supplying equipment for its 5G network, China's Communist Party-owned Global Times newspaper said.

In a vitriolic comment in the populist Chinese newspaper, Global Times reporter Li Qingqing said China's criticism of the Australian ban at a meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Geneva last Friday was a "new way to counteract Australia's decision to exclude Huawei from the country's 5G network".

It said Australia was "under the US command" and "had become a pioneer in destroying the rules" of the WTO when it came to imposing a ban on the use of Chinese equipment for its 5G network.

In answer to a question from The Australian on its view of the Huawei decision, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned on Monday night that any country "adopting discriminatory practices" against the companies of another country would "only hurt its own international co-operation".

Read more (Paywall):

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/technology/australia-to-pay-for-huawei-ban-chinas-global-times-warns/news-story/da181b374fa8c6c6e3110c968b1bf1f0>

## 8. Australia should learn from Malaysia and Japan

**16/04/19**

**Professor John Lee**

**New Straits Times**

Australians will cast their vote in a general election in just over a month's time. Regardless of the result, China, which has placed Australia in the diplomatic freezer since the first half of 2018, will offer Australia a diplomatic reset after the successful party is sworn in.

Beijing is still furious over recent decisions by Canberra, such as the introduction of legislation targeted against Chinese foreign interference, the banning of Huawei from participating in the country's 5G rollout, and robust criticism of Chinese actions in the South China Sea. A reset will restore warmth to the bilateral relationship in return for Canberra walking back these hard-line policies.

Diplomatic resets are always tempting following periods of prolonged tension. Such petitions should be politely rebuffed. In international politics and diplomacy, it is preferable to articulate one's interests and values clearly, consistently and in an up-front manner. Smaller powers must always try to shape the expectations larger powers have of them. If Australia does not create and maintain its own "anchor point" on where it stands, other countries will do it for Canberra.

Read more:

<https://www.nst.com.my/opinion/columnists/2019/04/479800/australia-should-learn-malaysia-and-japan>

## 9. Australian university signs A\$100 million China deal despite concerns

**17/04/19**

**Sam Shead**

**Financial Times**

One of Australia's leading tertiary education institutions, Monash University, has signed a A\$100m deal with China, despite the country's decision to tighten foreign investment rules last year amid concerns over growing Chinese influence.

The Monash deal, which will allow Chinese investors and local governments to commercialise its scientific breakthroughs, has been announced at a time when several prominent educational institutions in the US and the UK have been seeking to distance themselves from Chinese entities, particularly Huawei, the Chinese telecoms company accused by the US of spying.

Under Monash's 10-year agreement, intellectual property developed by the university's medical and engineering departments will be incubated at the new Monash Technology and Transformation Institute (MTTI), based in Pingshan, in the province of Shenzhen, which is the patent-filing capital of China.

"Monash, like most Australian universities, continues to be blind to the high risk of Chinese intellectual property theft at exactly the time when the MIT and other front-rank global universities are limiting Chinese connections," said Peter Jennings,

executive director of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, a Canberra-based think-tank focusing on defence issues.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.ft.com/content/760d4714-60da-11e9-b285-3acd5d43599e>

## 10. The expanding global footprint of China's tech giants

**17/04/19**

**Lisa Murray**

**Australian Financial Review**

Chinese technology firms are rapidly expanding their global footprint at a time when policymakers and industries haven't quite figured out how to deal with them.

The scope and scale of this expansion is captured in a new public data base mapping the overseas operations of 12 key Chinese technology firms launched on Wednesday by ASPI's International Cyber Policy Centre.

It tracks the more than 400 university and research partnerships, 52 5G initiatives, 56 undersea cables and over 200 data centres around the world that are controlled and operated by the likes of internet giants Alibaba, Baidu and Tencent and telecommunications companies Huawei, ZTE and China Mobile.

"It is important to recognise that the activities of these companies are not purely commercial, and in some circumstances risk mitigation is needed," ASPI's report said.

"The [Chinese Communist Party's] own policies and official statements make it clear that it perceives the expansion of Chinese technology companies as a crucial component of its wider project of ideological and geopolitical expansion."

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.afr.com/technology/mobiles-and-tablets/the-expanding-global-footprint-of-china-s-tech-giants-20190417-p51ezf>

## 11. Chisholm: Gladys Liu, Jennifer Yang vie to make history as first female Chinese-Australian MP

**18/04/19**

**Stephen Dziedzic**

**ABC**

Jennifer Yang hesitates when she talks about making history.

If you believe the bookies, Labor's candidate for the marginal seat of Chisholm is on the cusp of becoming the first Chinese-Australian woman to win a seat in Federal Parliament's Lower House.

Born in Taiwan, Ms Yang has already earned her political stripes as a local councillor and mayor.

But Canberra is a different story.

"If I am the first Chinese-Australian woman in Parliament, it'll be a great honour," Ms Yang tells the ABC.

But she also shifts uncomfortably when asked about race — she doesn't want to be pigeon-holed.

Ms Yang wants to make it clear: if she wins, she'll represent all the voters in Chisholm, not just the Chinese community.

Read more: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-18/chisholm-seat-profile-gladys-liu-jennifer-yang-history-making/11023902>

## 12. Interview: China is a global economic engine that has served Australia well: state MP

**18/04/19**

**Yu Chen and Levi J. Parsons**

**Xinhua**

Although Australia has never historically viewed itself as being an Asia-Pacific nation, this perception may be starting to change in the continent, according to New South Wales State Member of Parliament for the Labor Party Shaoquett Moselmane.

"Australians continue to see themselves as part of the democratic, western world," he told Xinhua recently.

"Part of the Commonwealth of States and under the British Monarchy (and) bound by the ANZUS (The Australia, New Zealand and United States Security) treaty."

"Institutions of state operate with such a frame of mind and so do many Australians."



*Each week China Matters collates news items about the Australia-China relationship*

While it can be difficult for some Aussies to view the globe outside of this prism, Moselmane said it is also true that a significant proportion of Australians do not see the world in this simple black and white framework.

*Read more: [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-04/18/c\\_137987225.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-04/18/c_137987225.htm)*