

Fifth National Meeting of China Matters

Held in partnership with The University of Queensland

24 March 2017

The objective of the meeting is to formulate specific policy proposals regarding Australia-China relations. The meeting will be conducted off-the-record.

Each session has three panellists and a moderator. Each panellist has *seven* minutes to make remarks and is encouraged to take a stand on a controversial issue relating to the session 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 a maximum of *four* minutes.

The 'jazz club style' format of the meeting is designed to create a conversation among peers. There is no Q&A. While panellists initiate the conversation, their follow-up remarks throughout the session must be brief, so that the majority of the session is an open back-and-forth among all participants.

0830 Tea and coffee

0850 Participants move to meeting area to take their seats.

0900 – 0915 **Welcome** Mr **Peter Varghese** AO, Chancellor, The University of Queensland
Ms **Linda Jakobson**, CEO and Founding Director, China Matters

0915 – 1045 **Session I How should Australia shape its ties with China in an unpredictable era?**

Panellists: Major General **Richard Burr** DSC AM MVO, Deputy Chief of Army
Mr **Andrew Harding**, Managing Director and CEO, Aurizon
Mr **Dennis Richardson** AO, Secretary, Department of Defence

Moderator: Ms **Linda Jakobson**, CEO and Founding Director, China Matters

Panellists and participants should consider how best to promote outcomes that achieve Australia's interests in unpredictable times, and focus on steps that Australia needs to take to strengthen its ties with China.

Key questions: What should Australians do to effectively influence China's policies and actions? What issues are Australian priorities? On which issues are we willing to make a choice? What should Canberra do in the event of US-China military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait? Or a clash at sea?

1045 – 1110 Morning tea

1110 – 1240 **Session II How should Australia prepare for a changed trade and investment landscape?**

Panellists: Mr **Peter Varghese** AO, Chancellor, The University of Queensland
The Hon. **Keith Pitt**, Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
Mr **Andrew Michelmore**, Executive Manager, MMG; Board Director, China Matters

Moderator: Mr **Arthur Kroeber**, Founding Director, Gavekal Dragonomics

Panellists and participants should discuss the challenges for Australia in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative.

Key questions: How might China seek to re-shape the regional trade agenda, and the way it is determined? How should Australia mitigate the risk of China using its economic power over Australia to influence political outcomes? How can we enhance our leverage in bilateral deals? Does China's 'One Belt One Road' initiative have substantive implications for Australia?

1240 – 1355 Lunch

1355 – 1525 **Session III What should Australia do to meet the aspirations of Chinese international students?**

Panellists: Professor **Peter Coaldrake** AO, Vice Chancellor, Queensland University of Technology

Ms **Susan Cao**, Assistant Principal (External Engagement), Top Education Institute

Dr **Bates Gill**, Professor of Asia-Pacific Studies, ANU Strategic and Defence Studies Centre; Board Director, China Matters

Moderator: Dr **Simon Longstaff** AO FCPA, Executive Director, The Ethics Centre

Panellists and participants should discuss how to balance universities' short-term economic goals with Australia's long-term interests to provide a satisfying student experience.

Key questions: What specific measures should universities, the business sector and government adopt to provide a more inclusive and positive experience for Chinese international students? What are the risks of over-reliance by the Australian higher education sector on Chinese international students?

1525 - 1535 Short break

1535 – 1645 **Session IV Wrap-up and recommendations: what should Australia do?**

Panellists: Dr **Geoff Raby**, Chairman and CEO, Geoff Raby & Associates

Mr **Laurie Smith**, Principal, Shuhou Associates; Board Member, Australia China Business Council; Member of Advisory Council, China Matters

Moderator: Mr **Michael Mann** AM, Chancellor, Torrens University

Professor **Michael Wesley**, Dean, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific; Chair of Advisory Council, China Matters

Each panellist will briefly summarise the policy recommendations of one session, and put forward their own recommendation. Participants are asked to take a stance on these recommendations and appraise their practicality.

1645 Meeting concludes.