

## Media Roundup Issue 11 (11/03/17 – 17/03/17)

### 1. Australian beef gaining popularity in China's fifth-largest city

**11/03/17**

**Philippa Courtney**

**ABC News**

A young Chinese businessman who lived in Brisbane for three years is behind a string of Australian-style butcher shops popping up in Chengdu, China's fifth-largest city.

"I did eat a lot of beef when I was at uni in Queensland!" Ming Yang said.

"I didn't know beef was that good before I went to Australia, I love it."

Three years ago Mr Yang started Sichuan Yutai after securing exclusive rights to sell Coles branded beef in Chengdu.

He named the small butcher shops AFD, which stands for "more Australia happiness".

*Read More:*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-11/australian-beef-gaining-popularity-in-chinas-fifth-largest-city/8342560>

### 2. Beijing waits for Canberra to make 'the China choice'

**13/03/17**

**Rowan Callick**

**The Australian**

China is preoccupied with domestic and global issues galore.

Although Australia is not at the front of Beijing's thoughts, we are not as remote or exotic as it seemed a decade ago when the rise of a Mandarin speaker as prime minister was mind-blowing for many Chinese.

The range and depth of engagement is now vast. Within Chinese universities there are 31 Australian Studies centres — almost as many as there are at Australian institutions.

A conference was held at the weekend at the Foreign Studies University in Beijing on “China, the US and Australia Relations in the Trump Era”. The prelude to the conference was the launch of the first “blue book” — published in Chinese — on developments in Australia and in Australia-China relations, which will become an annual review.

*Read More (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/beijing-waits-for-canberra-to-make-the-china-choice/news-story/42ffefd347a2ba3aa3d957e26dd69ede>

### 3. Bishop warns against US, China trade war

**13/03/17**

**AAP**

**Sky News**

Australia's foreign minister says China and the United States cannot afford to wage a trade war, as the world watches ties between the two nations fray amid fears of rising American protectionism.

Julie Bishop weighed in on the spectre of an economic stoush between the global giants while in Singapore talking about extraordinary change and uncertainty throughout Asia.

'I believe that both sides have too much at stake for there to be a trade war,' Ms Bishop told Bloomberg News on Monday.

'The United States has issues with China, China has issues with the United States, but I believe they can be resolved by high level consultation and discussion and I hope that we see that.'

*Read More:*

<http://www.skynews.com.au/news/politics/federal/2017/03/13/bishop-visits-partners-in-southeast-asia.html>

#### 4. Our economic relationship with the US is both deep and wide

**13/03/17**

**Kim Beazley & Ian Satchwell**  
**Australian Financial Review**

The administration of US President Trump is implementing major changes to key policies, including on trade, investment, security and geo-strategic posture. Australia's deep alliance relationship with the United States is facing uncertainties and potential headwinds.

A key element of Australia's current debate on strategic and security issues has been a notion of forced choice between the old ally – the United States – and a new major trading partner – China.

Commentators have characterised this as a binary decision and in the light of policy uncertainty in the United States and the rise of China underpinning Australia's economic future in Asia, some have even questioned whether the Australia-US alliance has had its day.

*Read More (Paywall):*

<http://www.afr.com/opinion/columnists/our-economic-relationship-with-the-us-is-both-deep-and-wide-20170312-guw7ki>

#### 5. Julie Bishop sends sharp message to China about democracy

**13/03/17**

**Michelle Grattan**  
**The Conversation**

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has sent an unusually pointed message to China about the importance of democratic institutions, in a speech also declaring that the US needs to play an even greater regional strategic role as China's strength increases.

Bishop said that “while it is appropriate for different states to discover their own pathway leading toward political reform, history shows that embrace of liberal democratic institutions is the most successful foundation for nations seeking economic prosperity and social stability”.

“While non-democracies such as China can thrive when participating in the present system, an essential pillar of our preferred order is democratic community,” she said, delivering an address in Singapore titled Change and Uncertainty in the Indo-Pacific.

*Read More:*

<https://theconversation.com/julie-bishop-sends-sharp-message-to-china-about-democracy-74461>

## 6. Australia set to shine on Asia’s Trump aversion

**13/03/17**

**Robert Gottliebsen**  
**The Australian**

Australia is now emerging as one of the greatest beneficiaries of the so-called “Anti Trump” revolution sweeping Asia and the Middle East and, as a result, if we could only get our energy policies in some semblance of order, we’re set for much better economic times. At least, that’s what the Chinese have realised.

Let me draw together four areas where the Australian outlook is being transformed by the Asian reaction to Trump.

*Read More (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/opinion/robert-gottliebsen/australia-set-to-shine-on-asias-trump-aversion/news-story/3ac81a7bb7abd3f64ba675fb17068059>

## 7. Julie Bishop dares China on democracy

**14/03/17**

**Primrose Riordan**  
**The Australian**

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has warned China it will never reach its full potential unless it embraces democracy, while calling on the US to increase engagement in the Asia-Pacific.

The unusually forthright comments, directed at Australia’s largest trading partner, were made at an address to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Singapore last night.

“The importance of liberal values and institutions should not be underestimated or ignored,” she said.

“While non-democracies such as China can thrive when participating in the present system, an essential pillar of our preferred order is democratic community.”

*Read More (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/julie-bishop-dares-china-on-democracy/news-story/13d1ac9ba607d4893c2ce9347e05f36d>

## 8. China e-commerce confusion catches Australian retailers on the hop

**14/03/17**

**Swati Pandey & Muyu Xu**

**Reuters**

Australian retailers and manufacturers are rejigging their business models and reviewing strategies to sell goods into China amid confusion over a threatened government crackdown on e-commerce platforms.

Supermarket giant Woolworths Ltd late last year sacked an Australian online retail specialist it had hired specifically to spearhead its drive into online sales in China, a source told Reuters, replacing it with a Shanghai-based firm.

Other retailers, including supplement provider Mr. Vitamins, are also reconsidering their options after a move by China last April to raise taxes on goods bought on overseas e-commerce platforms failed to put the anticipated dampener on China's booming e-commerce market.

*Read More:* <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-australia-china-retail-idUSKBN16L2SU>

## 9. China lashes out at Julie Bishop's 'arrogant finger-pointing'

**14/03/17**

**Lisa Murray & Angus Grigg  
Australian Financial Review**

A Chinese government think-tank linked to the foreign ministry has lashed out at comments on Monday night by Australian foreign minister Julie Bishop, who suggested China was not fit to be a regional leader because it was not a democracy.

Wang Zhenyu, Associate Research Fellow at the China Institute of International Studies, described Ms Bishop's comments, delivered during a lecture in Singapore, as "unacceptable" and "arrogant".

"This arrogant finger-pointing is not the East Asian way, which Australia is yet to learn in its course to sail into the Asian Century," he told the Australian Financial Review.

*Read More (Paywall):*

<http://www.afr.com/news/policy/foreign-affairs/china-lashes-out-at-julie-bishops-arrogant-fingerpointing-20170314-guxjgi>

## 10. China weighs in as Julie Bishop backs Japanese right to sail through troubled South China Sea

**15/03/17**

**David Wroe and Kristy Needham  
Sydney Morning Herald**

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has backed "the right of all nations" to sail through international waters after Japan reportedly decided to send its biggest naval warship through the politically-sensitive South China Sea.

The move by Japan to send its Izumo helicopter carrier through the waters where Beijing has been expanding strategic control signals clear fears even among close US allies about Donald Trump's commitment to Asia, leading Australian experts said.

Ms Bishop, when asked for her views on the reports of Japan's planned naval transit, said: "The Australian government supports the right of all nations and their vessels to traverse international waters according to international law."

*Read More:*

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/japanese-war-ship-through-the-south-china-sea-signals-regions-nervousness-about-donald-trump-20170314-guxu91.html>

## 11. No need to choose between China and United States, Premier Li Keqiang says

**15/03/17**  
**Bill Birtles**  
**ABC News**

China's Premier Li Keqiang has publicly rejected the notion that countries in the Asia-Pacific need to make a choice between China and the United States.

Speaking at an annual media conference, Mr Li said China "does not want to see any party compelled to take sides under the influence of a Cold War mentality" — a reference often reserved to describe US foreign policy.

Relations with Washington dominated the event in a deliberate move by the Chinese Government, because it pre-approves all questions that journalists are allowed to ask the Premier.

"China-US relations have been going forward despite various twists and turns in recent decades, so I'm optimistic about the future of this relationship no matter who gets elected," Mr Li said.

*Read More:*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-15/beijing-tells-asia-pacific-no-need-to-choose-between-china-us/8357694>

## 12. Julie Bishop's doctrine of denial is no foreign policy future

**15/03/17**

**Hugh White**

**Australian Financial Review**

Julie Bishop is anxious about Asia. She worries about intensifying economic competition as too many workers in rising economies chase too few consumers elsewhere.

And she worries about intensifying strategic competition as the region's emerging great powers seek to expand their spheres of influence and protect their growing interests.

But fortunately she thinks she has the answers to these problems, as she tried to explain in a major address to the International Institute of Strategic Studies in Singapore on Monday night.

*Read More (Paywall):*

<http://www.afr.com/opinion/columnists/julie-bishops-doctrine-of-denial-is-no-foreign-policy-future-20170314-guyas0>

## 13. Australia 'must ease nerves on Trump', says report

**16/03/17**

**Cameron Stewart**

**The Australian**

Australia must step up its leadership in Asia to help counter the risk of reckless militarism by the Trump administration towards China, a new report claims.

It argues that Australia should try to act as an honest broker between Washington and Beijing to reduce the risk of misunderstandings ahead of what promises to be a hardline, confrontational US policy on China. The report, to be released today by the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, - coincides with the first visit to the region by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson this week. The visit to Japan, South Korea and China will provide the clearest sign of the Trump administration's Asia policy, including its China relationship. It comes at a time of growing tension between Washington and Beijing over the US decision last week to deploy the THAAD missile defence system in South Korea to help protect against North Korean missiles.



Australia's role in the region will be on the agenda when Chinese Premier Li Keqiang visits Sydney next Friday. Experts speculate that the meeting could be more prickly than usual after Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said in Singapore this week that China would never reach its full potential unless it embraced democracy.

*Read More (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/australia-must-ease-nerves-on-trump-says-report/news-story/2c47c737db30026ff262789ebeb2a21d>

## 14. Make presence felt on Beijing's TPP, urges business council

**16/03/17**

**Primrose Riordan  
The Australian**

Australia should be closely involved in crafting China's version of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and cement ties with Indonesia to protect itself if tensions erupt in Asia, according to the Australia China Business Council.

The suggestions — made in a submission to the forthcoming foreign policy white paper — come ahead of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Australia next Friday against a background of unpredictable tensions in Asia.

The council said Australia's relations with the US and Europe served the nation only "up to a point": it should have a more independent view and not just define its national interests based on geopolitics.

"Stronger relationships with ASEAN and its members, especially Indonesia, may also assist Australia to protect its core interests when tensions or pressures rise over issues in East Asia or more broadly," the council said.

*Read More (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/make-presence-felt-on-beijings-tpp-urges-business-council/news-story/9c22af80b6eca896c620dc7870a8c254>

## 15. Stephen FitzGerald: Managing Australian foreign policy in a Chinese world

**17/03/17**

**Stephen FitzGerald**

**The Conversation (Transcript of the 2017 Whitlam Oration)**

In April 1973, I went to Beijing with what's now an historic Whitlam document tucked under my arm: an eight-page letter from Gough to me as ambassador. It's what might now be called a narrative – how the relationship with China was imagined, and our goals for the long term, and what I should do to go about laying down tracks to head us towards those goals.

It's historic for the obvious reason that it was Whitlam writing at the outset of Australia's official relations with the People's Republic of China. But it's historic also because the central message is still germane.

Gough wrote:

*We seek a relationship with China based on friendship, co-operation and mutual trust, comparable with that which we have, or seek, with other major powers.*

Think about that for a moment. It doesn't say other major Asian powers. It implies Washington or London as much as Jakarta or Tokyo. Think what that would mean.

It would mean a comparable familiarity, in government and society, and comparable closeness, access, and trust, and potential to influence – and, in Gough's view, also the capacity to look to our own interests, and capacity to say "no".

*Read More:*

<https://theconversation.com/stephen-fitzgerald-managing-australian-foreign-policy-in-a-chinese-world-74607>