

Media Roundup Issue 14 (01/04/17 – 07/04/17)

1. Australia must reshape links with China

01/04/2017

Bates Gill and Linda Jakobson

The Australian

The week's events aside, Australia and China have never had such a promising relationship as today. Chinese tourists are the largest group of visitors from abroad and the biggest foreign spenders in Australia. Up to 90 direct flights arrive in Australia from China every week, with more to come. China is the largest buyer of Australian wine. Nearly one-fifth of Chinese students abroad choose Australia as the place to pursue their studies. Australian exports meet 54 per cent of Chinese demand for iron ore.

But Australia's future prosperity will depend heavily on an economic relationship with China that is markedly different from today's. The lucrative days of dependence on simple transactional relations — dropping off the goods at China's doorstep — are behind us. Resource exports will remain important, but a new model of economic engagement is required. Australians need to respond to the demand in China for a wide range of services.

Read More (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/inquirer/australia-must-reshape-links-with-china/news-story/67d6944ce29fd4a2d28c60e51d6b49ef>

2. Chongyi Feng's detention in China a blunt warning to Chinese Australians

02/04/2017

Andrew Greene

ABC News

The mildly spoken and widely respected Sydney professor Chongyi Feng is back in Australia, much to the relief of a small band of supporters and friends who gathered at Sydney airport on Sunday morning to welcome him home.

"Great, brilliant," Dr Feng told the ABC when asked how he felt after finally stepping off his China Southern flight from Guangzhou, more than a week after Chinese officials had first prevented him from leaving.

Academic colleagues believe Dr Feng, perhaps more than any other Chinese scholar, has helped Australians understand the complex political and economic relationship with the world's most populous nation and this country's largest trading partner.

It's that invaluable, fearless, and independent work, published over decades in Australia, that has undoubtedly earned him the ire of Communist party officials in the country of his birth.

Read More:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-02/chongyi-fengs-detention-in-china-a-blunt-warning/8409186>

3. Chongyi Feng: Extradition treaty with China would be fatal mistake

03/04/2017

Primrose Riordan

The Australian

University of Technology Sydney professor Chongyi Feng, who was finally allowed to leave China on Saturday night, says an extradition treaty with China would be a “fatal mistake”.

The Chinese studies professor said he was grateful to the Department of Foreign Affairs, his employers and supporters for agitating for his release after he was stopped from leaving China twice and interrogated for more than a week.

Speaking to *The Australian* back at home in Sydney with his daughter, Yunsi, Dr Feng said he was “absolutely” pleased the Turnbull government had withdrawn an instrument to ratify a China-Australia extradition treaty from parliament.

He said cases such as his — he was interrogated, charged without any paperwork with “endangering state security” and punished with a travel ban — showed the dangers of such a deal.

Read More (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/extradition-treaty-with-china-would-be-fatal-mistake-says-feng/news-story/b4071a5a830a99ff2a6e76549743480d>

4. Getting too close to China could harm Australia

03/04/2017

**Alan Dupont
The Australian**

The rejection of the extradition treaty with China by an unusually diverse coalition spanning the political spectrum should be a reality check for proponents of closer ties with a country that shares few of our core values. This much is clear from the refusal of an overwhelming majority of parliamentarians to put Australian citizens at the mercy of Chinese courts, which clearly lack judicial independence and are subservient to the will of the ruling Communist Party.

Pragmatists assert that we have to look beyond this democratic deficit because we live in a China world, and shaping that world to our advantage ought to be a foreign policy priority. Australia's first ambassador to China, Stephen Fitzgerald, in his recent Whitlam Oration assumes that getting closer to China would give us more influence over its policies, but that's a dubious assumption.

Read More (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/getting-too-close-to-china-could-harm-australia/news-story/acba789e1037a7aeac4bc327a73e02fb>

5. China's clean coal lesson

03/04/2017

**Rowan Callick
The Australian**

Chinese engineer and inventor Feng Weizhong has an easy answer to how China plans to keep slashing coal use and power-station emissions while relying on coal to provide at least 55 per cent of its massive energy demand for decades to come.

The effervescent Professor Feng, who is also general manager of a large Shanghai power plant, explained to *The Australian* how the country can contrive to do both at the same time.

"Simple! It's clean coal!"

China's national energy administration has enlisted Feng as its champion in renovating outdated power plants and developing new ones that meet its needs to make more energy from lower fuel inputs, while emitting far less pollution and carbon dioxide.

Read More (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/inquirer/chinas-clean-coal-lesson/news-story/a5fd85f04c9c59723aa80b01b2307669>

6. China banks on Australia's support in Asia

04/04/2017

Michael Smith

Australian Financial Review

Jin Liqun's passion for Australian literature is a huge asset for the senior Chinese banker as he sells the merits of the \$US100 billion Asian infrastructure bank launched two years ago.

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His visit is significant as it underscores the importance of the role he wants Australia to play in the AIIB. The reality is the bank needs developed countries like Australia and New Zealand on board to add to its credibility.

The 1997 Asian financial crisis forced many countries to work closely together and improve governance and macro-economic policy, but many still lag behind a country like Australia, which has decades of solid economic management behind it. Jin has told Australia the bank needs its guidance and is keen to learn from developing countries. It is one of 70 members, including the 13 who signed up in March, and its voting power is around 3 per cent.

Read More (Paywall):

<http://www.afr.com/brand/chanticleer/china-banks-on-australias-support-in-asia-20170404-gvdjnw>

7. Australia's Hope for US-China Relations Under Trump

04/04/2017

Kadira Pethiyagoda
The Diplomat

Premier Li Keqiang's trade-focused visit to Australia followed on from Chinese President Xi Jinping's historic speech at Davos, where Beijing seemed to take on the mantle of global free-trade champion. U.S. President Donald Trump's increased protectionism has provided Beijing an opening to reach out to pro-trade nations like Australia. But while most see Trump's economic nationalism as a negative in Sino-U.S. relations, his corresponding domestic focus and, more importantly, the anti-establishment sentiment that elected him, may provide a morsel of hope in relation to Australia's biggest foreign policy dilemma – potential conflict between the United States and China.

Read More:

<http://thediplomat.com/2017/04/australias-hope-for-us-china-relations-under-trump/>

8. Think big, but there's no need to trade US for China

05/04/2017

Paul Kelly
The Australian

Demands for Australia to rethink or even transform its relations with China and the US continue to gather force within the academic and foreign policy community, while the Turnbull government rejects the need for radical or substantial change.

This is the debate that cannot be denied. It will become a decisive encounter in our intellectual and political life, penetrating to our values, identity and world role — and, of course, the public's outlook. It involves the ultimate question: when and how China will leverage its influence or coerce Australia to serve China's needs, and how the politicians and public will react.

In simplified terms there are two camps — a group of former politicians, diplomats and experts outside government agitating for Australia to move far closer to China; and the sentiment within government, far more wary, seeking cautious change but rejecting radical reorientation.

Read More (Paywall):

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/paul-kelly/think-big-but-theres-no-need-to-trade-us-for-china/news-story/f375a240a44219d69a4eb9615b42892e>

9. After Cyclone Debbie, China replaces Australian coal with US cargoes

05/04/2017

Reuters

CNBC

China, the world's biggest coking coal importer, is scrambling to cover Australian supply disruptions after Cyclone Debbie knocked out mines and rails by turning to an unusual source: the United States.

Debbie, which hit Australia's Queensland state last week, caused the evacuation of several mines and damaged coal trains supplying export terminals, triggering two miners - Yancoal Australia and QCoal - to declare force majeure on its deliveries. With other miners like BHP Billiton and Glencore also affected by the storm's fallout, more disruptions may follow.

Read More:

<http://www.cNBC.com/2017/04/04/after-cyclone-debbie-china-replaces-australian-coal-with-us-cargoes.html>

10. China 'abruptly cancels' Australian delegation's planned visit after human rights criticism

06/04/2017

Andrew Greene & Stephen Dzedzic

ABC News

A delegation of federal politicians' planned visit to China has been abruptly cancelled after Beijing took offence at a human rights petition signed by Australia.

The letter from 11 nations — including Canada, Japan and Switzerland — reportedly urged China to investigate disturbing reports of torture against human rights lawyers.

It is believed the joint letter was sent last month from the diplomatic missions in China of the signatory countries, and reportedly expressed "growing concern over recent claims of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in cases concerning detained human rights lawyers and other human rights defenders".

The letter was meant to remain private but was leaked to the media.

Read More:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-06/china-cancels-australian-delegations-visit/8419900>

11. Megaphone diplomacy with China will always fail: Bob Carr

07/04/2017

**Troy Bramston
The Australian**

Bob Carr has stressed the importance of the long-term Australia-China relationship and said megaphone diplomacy to resolve periodic disagreements will almost always fail.

The former foreign minister and NSW premier, who now runs the Australia-China Relations Institute at the University of Technology Sydney, says the failure to ratify a "mutually beneficial" extradition treaty and the detainment of an Australian-based academic did not signal a low point in relations.

"Our political system was not able to resolve the extradition treaty and their political system came down hard against an academic," he told *The Australian*.

"These case studies confirm that we've got different systems and need to work at a relationship which, from Australia's perspective, is absolutely vital to maintaining our living standards."

Read More:

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/megaphone-diplomacy-with-china-will-always-fail-bob-carr/news-story/a9c9ea5d8e75ba0752dbec48936369b4>