

Media Roundup Issue 43 (21/10/17 – 27/10/17)

1. United Front boss tells Chinese in Australia to respect the law

21/10/2017

Kirsty Needham

Sydney Morning Herald

The chief of the Chinese Communist Party's United Front, which has been accused of mobilising spying abroad, has told Chinese living in Australia to respect local laws.

The Turnbull Government will introduce the first law to crack down on foreign interference through agents of influence, which is likely to include harsh penalties.

Asked about allegations in Australia that United Front was mobilising spying in Chinese communities, the United Front's executive vice minister, Zhang Yijiong, responded that overseas Chinese should respect Australia's "culture, history and way of life".

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/world/united-front-boss-tells-chinese-in-australia-to-respect-the-law-20171021-gz5jor.html>

2. Hidden risks for Australia in Xi Jinping's vision for China

21/10/2017

Greg Sheridan

The Australian

Xi Jinping is a big cat on the world stage. As an individual, he is second only to Donald Trump in global power. And he has just told us what he thinks will be his country's future.

We should pay attention.

Xi Jinping's speech to the 19th congress of the Communist Party of China was not for the faint-hearted. Its title is a subeditor's nightmare: "To secure a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and strive for the great success of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era".

Even the most practised panda hugger at the Australian National University could not describe official Chinese prose as pithy. And Xi fully lived up to the culture of communist prolixity, speaking for a staggering 3½ hours.

This was a speech designed for the history books. And history will surely pay attention to it.

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/inquirer/hidden-risks-for-australia-in-xi-jinpings-vision-for-china/news-story/0c60f6f9f9c53dde929a690e7563e321>

3. Opinion: China's illiberal expansionism must be contested by Australia

22/10/2017

**Richard Fontaine & Ely Ratner
Australian Financial Review**

Observers in Washington, DC have watched with keen interest as Australia grapples with the extension of Chinese political and economic influence into its domestic affairs. Individuals and entities linked to the Chinese Communist Party have made campaign donations, purchased Chinese-language media in Australia, established pro-Beijing civil society groups, and attempted to censor debate on university campuses. This rising tide of China-directed illiberalism threatens Australian sovereignty and the integrity of its democratic system.

Canberra has moved quickly and, it appears, effectively, to protect its domestic institutions. The Prime Minister is reportedly set to introduce new laws aimed at impeding foreign interference and espionage. Australia's senior officials are speaking publicly and directly; in recent days Foreign Affairs Secretary Frances Adamson called attempts to silence "anyone in our society – from students to lecturers to politicians" as "an affront to our values".

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.afr.com/opinion/columnists/opinion-chinas-illiberal-expansionism-must-be-contested-by-australia-20171022-gz5rps?btis>

4. Xi's authoritarian vision for world domination

23/10/2017

Editorial

The Australian

President Xi Jinping's 3 ½ hour address to the 19th Chinese Communist Party national congress in Beijing demonstrated how hard line and uncompromising China has become under his controlling leadership. In outlining a path he believes will lead to eventual global domination, the man regarded as China's most significant leader since Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping made it clear that even more power, not less, will be concentrated in the hands of the communist party.

Any notions of liberalisation or reforms approximating Western-style democracy, long regarded by many in the West as inevitable consequences of China's economic success in a globalised world, opened up to 700 million Chinese people by the (heavily censored) internet, were specifically ruled out. The rule of law, all forms of political dissent and even private enterprise are to be subjected to even greater centralised control by the party. State enterprises are to be expanded rather than put into private hands. An oppressive system of facial recognition will expand party control over every citizen's every move.

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/editorials/xis-authoritarian-vision-for-world-domination/news-story/c7e88f89da8923fe70c3724fabf2ff3b>

5. Xi Jinping offers a long-term view of China's ambition

23/10/2017

Kevin Rudd

Financial Times

The 19th Chinese Communist party congress has generated much commentary, but what does it actually mean? Party congresses are essentially about three things: first, leadership, personnel and power; second, ideology; third, political vision.

On the first, President Xi Jinping has further strengthened his position. He is now China's paramount leader. Five years ago I said he would be China's most powerful leader since Deng Xiaoping. I was wrong. He is now China's most

powerful leader since Mao Zedong. Mr Xi has maintained an iron grip on the party through an anti-corruption campaign that has seen 278,000 officials punished, 440 at ministerial rank and above, including many politburo rivals. The campaign will continue. By midweek we will also see a new line-up for the Politburo Standing Committee, which will primarily reflect Mr Xi's personal selection.

This congress points to Mr Xi continuing as China's paramount leader beyond the next five years, and possibly for the next 15. His marathon speech last week emphasised completion of China's next national mission by 2035, part of progress to becoming a major global power by mid-century. The inference is we will see Mr Xi in office through to the 2030s.

Read more: <https://www.ft.com/content/24eeae8a-b5a1-11e7-8007-554f9eaa90ba?mhq5j=e5>

6. Sydney cultural extravaganza helps showcase growing Australia-China ties

23/10/2017

Xinhua News Agency

About 800 students from more than 30 schools and universities across Australia's New South Wales state impressed a 2,000-strong audience, in a night of song and dance at the 2017 Chinese Language Spectacular cultural performance in the Sydney Town Hall Monday.

In its fourth year, the popular event boasted Chinese- language students showcasing their artistic talent in the packed iconic venue.

Jointly organized by the Confucius Institute at the University of New South Wales and the Chinese Language Teachers Association of New South Wales, this year's extravaganza coincided with the 45th anniversary of the establishment of Australia-China diplomatic relations and continued to celebrate the cultural bridges and educational ties between the two countries.

During the event, Education Counsellor Niu Wenqi of the Chinese Consulate General in Sydney highlighted the "spirit of cultural exchange here in Australia."

Read more: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-10/23/c_136700506.htm

7. China pollution crackdown here to stay

23/10/2017

**Kirsty Needham
Sydney Morning Herald**

A crackdown on polluting industries in northern China for an unprecedented five months over winter is not a one-off and could hit Australian iron ore and coal exports.

The winter pollution shutdown, which began in September and will run until March, is set to continue, China's environment minister says.

Australian iron ore and coal exports have been hit by a slowdown in Chinese demand since the crackdown on pollution. Steel mills and cement makers in some provinces have had to cut production by 50 per cent, and the sale and use of coal is banned in other cities.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/china-pollution-crackdown-here-to-stay-20171023-gz6pa1.html>

8. How China is challenging the West's broken model

24/10/2017

**Gideon Rachman
Australian Financial Review**

The Communist party congress in Beijing is a milestone. As the Xi Jinping era enters its second term, China's challenge to the west is becoming more overt. There is a growing official confidence in Beijing - verging on arrogance - that China is on the rise, while the west is in decline. The Chinese challenge to the west is taking place on three fronts: ideological, economic and geopolitical.

In the realm of ideas, the Communist party leadership is increasingly strident in repudiating western liberalism. President Xi and his colleagues argue that one-party rule works well for China - and should extend long into the future.

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.afr.com/news/politics/world/how-china-is-challenging-the-west-s-broken-model-20171023-gz6smo>

9. AFL doubles down in Shanghai with help from cattle investor

24/10/2017

Brad Thompson

Australian Financial Review

Chinese property tycoon Gui Guojie's first taste of AFL was watching Port Adelaide belt the top-of-the-ladder Fremantle Dockers at Adelaide Oval.

It was the last home-and-away fixture of 2015 and Fremantle, assured of being minor premiers, all but gave up the match by making 12 team changes and resting top players for the finals.

Mr Gui, a guest of Port Adelaide and then part a Chinese consortium bidding for the S. Kidman & Co cattle empire headquartered in South Australia, revelled in the big win in front of 38,633 roaring fans - unaware that it wasn't a fair fight.

Port Adelaide and the AFL will remember the otherwise forgettable match as the start of a ground-breaking relationship with Mr Gui's company Shanghai CRED.

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.afr.com/business/afl-doubles-down-in-shanghai-with-help-from-cattle-investor-20171024-gz75r3?btis>

10. China's ambition burns bright – with Xi Jinping firmly in charge

25/10/2017

Nick Bisley (member of China Matters Advisory Council)

The Conversation

The most important political event of 2017, the 19th Chinese Communist Party Congress, has concluded. And while there was much to digest, one image above all stands out: Xi Jinping's political dominance and his burning ambition for China.

The party congress is held every five years and has two main functions. The first is to lay out the policy program for the coming half decade. The other is to confirm the people who will occupy the key leadership roles within the CCP. In short, it's about policy and people.

The tone was set at the Xi's opening address. Formally presenting the work report of the 18th Central Committee, he outlined the huge steps China has

taken over the past five years and his vision for China over not just the next five years, but out to 2049, the centenary of the PRC's foundation.

Read more: <https://theconversation.com/chinas-ambition-burns-bright-with-xi-jinping-firmly-in-charge-86307>

11. Australia campuses warned of 'clandestine' influence in apparent poke at China

25/10/2017

Zalika Rizmal

Reuters

Australia's domestic spy chief has warned that universities need to be "very conscious" of foreign interference in an apparent reference to China's perceived undercover influence on campuses.

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation director-general Duncan Lewis told politicians in Canberra late on Tuesday that espionage and foreign interference were an "insidious threat".

Lewis said foreign powers were "clandestinely seeking to shape" the opinion of the Australian public, media organizations and government officials "in order to advance their countries' own political objectives".

Read more: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-australia-china-university/australia-campus-warned-of-clandestine-influence-in-apparent-poke-at-china-idUSKBN1CU0LZ>

12. Politics, not economics, will guide China's growth

26/10/2017

Rowan Callick

The Australian

Will the Communist Party Congress, which just ended, have any impact on an Australian firm that does business with China?

You bet.

Not that there will be sudden changes. Marx forbid that anything too revolutionary will occur. There's too much at stake for that.

The congress really confirmed that we'll be seeing China move in the same direction as in the last couple of years, only more assertively. Politics will have the upper hand over economics, even at times over what may seem like economic expediency. But since Xi Jinping — elevated to communist divinity alongside Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping — views pursuing “a better life” for Chinese people as central to the party's legitimacy, that will ensure the government will guard against any disruption to that process.

Trade, although it plays a key part in opening doors to that better life, did not feature prominently at the congress, and it would seem that Australia did well to conclude its free trade agreement with China when it did.

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/opinion/rowan-callick/politics-not-economics-will-guide-chinas-growth-over-the-next-two-decades/news-story/aa7c3af8f20053fa027bf4b02d82ff03>

13. Star casinos spread their reach

26/10/2017

Sarah-Jane Tasker
The Australian

The Australia China Business Council expects the number of Chinese tourists to Australia to triple from the current figure of just over 1 million annually to 3.3 million a year by 2026.

Income from Chinese tourists is also expected to jump almost 50 per cent to \$13 billion a year by 2020.

“The growth of the affluent Chinese middle-class demographic is behind the increased forecast, along with trade and travel agreements that make this country a more appealing destination for the Chinese,” Mr Bekier said.

“We also know most of these Chinese visitors, whether they are on holiday, visiting friends and family, or travelling here for a variety of other reasons, want high-end and authentic experiences.

“They like to stay in four or five star hotels, eat quality produce at quality restaurants, they like to shop, go sightseeing and take in the natural beauty, the climate and the clean air of Australia.”

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/companies/star-casinos-spread-their-reach/news-story/995a6b18129f38c7737bfdab85f3c81c>

14. Beijing's blue skies cloud Fortescue

26/10/2017

Matthew Stevens

Australian Financial Review

With 25 down and but one to go, Nev Power had experience enough to know that market discussion of his penultimate Fortescue Metals Group production quarterly might bring some challenge.

For the third consecutive quarter, Fortescue moved to down-shift previous guidance on the level of price discount that it is earning on iron ore sales to China. And for a third consecutive quarter, Power had to identify a growing price discount for Fortescue product and then justify why he and his marketing team are so confident this is but a passing phenomenon.

Right until December, Fortescue had been able to confidently predict that it's quite-particular blend of Pilbara iron ore would sell at a discount of 5-10 per cent to the main 62 per cent iron ore index price.

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.afr.com/business/mining/beijings-blue-skies-cloud-fortescue-20171026-gz8tk0>

15. Japan seeking Australia's support for anti-China bloc

26/10/2017

Lisa Murray & Angus Grigg

Australian Financial Review

Japan is stepping up efforts to restart a controversial security grouping with the US, India and Australia, posing a dilemma for the Turnbull Government as any participation by Canberra is likely to infuriate major trading partner, China.

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, which has also been dubbed "the Quad" or the "democracy club", briefly existed during the final days of the Howard Government and will be the subject of discussions when US President Donald Trump visits Tokyo early next month.

Japan is keen to revive the group as a counter to China's regional push for influence via the Belt and Road Initiative, a trillion-dollar infrastructure plan to improve trade routes across Asia and into Europe.

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.afr.com/news/policy/foreign-affairs/japan-seeking-australias-support-for-antichina-bloc-20171026-gz8yx1>

16. Australian ministers write to China to confirm approval of Carmichael mine

26/10/2017

**Gareth Hutchens
The Guardian**

Senior Turnbull government ministers have written a formal letter to China's government to confirm that the controversial Adani Carmichael coal project in Queensland has passed all necessary environmental approvals.

Frances Adamson, the secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, told senators on Thursday that Adani may have requested the letter to help it secure funding from the Chinese.

Adamson said the letter was signed by the minister for trade, Steve Ciobo, and the deputy prime minister, Barnaby Joyce. It was addressed to the National Development and Reform Commission in China.

Read more: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/oct/26/australian-ministers-write-to-china-to-confirm-approval-of-carmichael-mine>

17. Adani: Government gives assurance to China over coal mine project approvals, George Brandis says

26/10/2017

**Alexandra Blucher & Louisa Rebgetz
ABC News Online**

Crossbenchers have raised concerns in Parliament that the Federal Government is promoting the controversial Adani mega-mine to foreign governments in an effort to secure funding for the project.

The Turnbull Government said it was not advocating on behalf of the Indian company, but has confirmed it has written to the Chinese Government to assure it the Carmichael coal mine has been approved.

Senate crossbenchers questioned officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Senate Estimates after a Freedom of Information request to DFAT for documents relating to requests for foreign government financing for the controversial multi-billion-dollar mine and rail project.

Read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-26/government-gives-assurance-to-china-over-adani-approvals/9088968>

18. Speech warning of Chinese influence not cleared by Bishop

26/10/2017

**Rachel Baxendale & Greg Brown
The Australian**

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade head Frances Adamson has revealed she did not consult Julie Bishop before delivering a speech to international students last month, warning about Chinese interference in Australia.

Ms Adamson, appearing before Senate estimates this evening, defended her speech and told the hearing her comments on Chinese influence were “unremarkable” and a “statement of the obvious”.

The DFAT chief said it was usual practice for her to deliver speeches without prior consultation with the Foreign Minister.

Earlier in the day, DFAT assistant secretary Graham Fletcher revealed Ms Bishop’s office had leaked a hostile letter sent from North Korea to the Australian parliament without alerting the department.

On October 7, Ms Adamson addressed the Chinese government-funded Confucius Institute at the University of Adelaide, telling Chinese students they should not attempt to silence others and should engage with ideas respectfully.

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/speech-warning-of-chinese-influence-not-cleared-by-bishop/news-story/1135bca62f060a93545aec10fb81d486>

19. Chinese high rollers still key for casino fortunes

26/10/2017

Michael Smith

Australian Financial Review

The arrest of 16 Crown Resorts staff in China not only killed off James Packer's dream to transform his company into a global brand but it also sent many of the world's biggest casino operators running for cover.

Australian arch-rival The Star Entertainment Group joined gaming giants like MGM and Wynn in hastily pulling their staff out of China. Suddenly, the world's most important source of VIP gaming revenue was off limits.

This hurt earnings for both Crown and The Star last year, but both say there are now signs international VIP gaming revenue is recovering.

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.afr.com/brand/chanticleer/chinese-high-rollers-still-key-for-casino-fortunes-20171025-gz8h6f?btis>

20. Chinese poised to overtake Kiwis as Australia's biggest tourism market

27/10/2017

Kristy Sexton-McGrath

ABC News Online

The Australian tourism industry is racing to prepare for huge numbers of Chinese visitors to Australia, with figures more than tripling over the past seven years.

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures showed that in trend terms, visitors from China began overtaking those from New Zealand in May.

And from 2015 to 2016, the difference between the number of annual Chinese visitors and Kiwis narrowed by more than 140,000.

Tourism Australia managing director John O'Sullivan said 1.2 million people from mainland China visited Australia last year, and he said that was expected to triple to 3.3 million a year by 2026.

Read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-27/chinese-tourists-to-overtake-kiwis-in-australian-market/9087154>