

## Media Roundup Issue 72 (19/05/18– 25/05/18)

### 1. How seriously should Australia take Beijing's attacks in Chinese state media?

**18/05/18**

**Vicky Xiuzhong Xu**  
**ABC News**

Chinese state media has weighed in again on Australian-Chinese relations, slamming Beijing's relations with Canberra as "among the worst of all Western nations".

Ms Bishop hit back saying Mr Raby's piece was "profoundly ignorant" and one of the most "ill-informed" she had read about the China-Australia relationship. Since then, various Chinese state media outlets have chimed in.

One paper — The Global Times — ran an editorial in Chinese and English titled "Canberra's China Policy Justly Under Fire", stating Beijing had tremendous influence over Australia.

Read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-18/chinese-state-media-weighs-in-on-beijing-canberra-again/9770124>

### 2. Chinese military projects 'not funded' by university grants

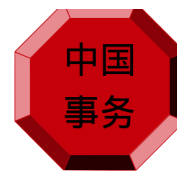
**18/05/18**

**Michael McGowan**  
**The Guardian**

The Australian Research Council has dismissed concerns that university grants are helping to fund projects with links to the Chinese military.

The ARC came under fire last year after reports it was funding research between Australian universities and Chinese state-run enterprises with military links.

Writing in the Australian, outspoken China critic professor Clive Hamilton from Charles Sturt University wrote that the ARC was "funnelling Australian taxpayer funds into research with applications to China's advanced weapons capacity".



In 2015 the ARC had awarded a three-year \$400,000 grant to the University of Adelaide for a research partnership with the Beijing Institute of Aeronautical Materials.

Read more: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/may/18/chinese-military-projects-not-funded-by-university-grants>

### 3. Is talk of Australia's 'anti-China' bias a weaponised narrative?

**19/05/18**

**Chris Zappone**

**Sydney Morning Herald**

Since the Turnbull government flagged plans to implement new national security laws last year, talk of Australia's "hostility" to China and Chinese people has risen.

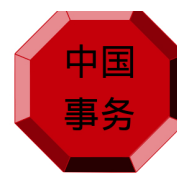
Just last month, China's ambassador Cheng Jingye warned that trade with China could be affected and cited worries that Chinese students in Australia had been subjected to "irresponsible and malicious allegations" and "security and safety incidents".

A group of scholars has signed a letter saying the "discourse" over Beijing-backed influence operations "is couched in such a way as to encourage suspicion and stigmatisation of Chinese Australians".

Those who support the foreign interference laws insist it's not about racism towards Chinese people, but about resisting the influence of the Chinese Communist Party on Australian affairs.

But what if the talk about anti-China bias is itself part of a strategy to muddy the discussion in Australia and undercut Australia's ability to defend its sovereignty?

Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/is-talk-of-australia-s-anti-china-bias-a-weaponised-narrative-20180503-p4zd4a.html>



#### 4. Chinese wine import slowdown due to paperwork changes: McWilliam's

**20/05/18**

**Eli Greenblat**

**The Australian**

McWilliam's Wine chief executive Jeff McWilliam has confirmed widespread reports from the nation's \$40 billion wine industry that a "go slow" at Chinese ports, possibly politically motivated, is restricting the flow of Australian wine into its most important export market.

Mr McWilliam said it appeared much of the slowdown in shipments of Australian wine through key ports was being caused by Chinese customs officials requiring changes to the supply of documents and the way these export papers were filled in and did not reflect any weakening in demand for our wine among Chinese drinkers.

"I think they (Chinese customs) are just being a bit more particular about things like documentation, that type of stuff. It sort of comes and goes to be honest ... we find ourselves having to redo some paperwork and redo some documentation but we haven't had any stock turned away," Mr McWilliam told The Australian on Sunday.

*Read more (Paywall): <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/chinese-wine-import-slowdown-due-to-paperwork-changes-mcwilliams/news-story/f2d9812df91637236e6707919982d05f>*

#### 5. Labor to send troubleshooters to help mend Chinese ties

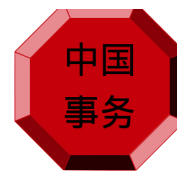
**21/05/18**

**Primrose Riordan**

**The Australian**

Labor will seek to lay the foundations for a reset of relations with China under a future Shorten government by planning a trip by Penny Wong and Richard Marles to Beijing as soon as September.

Labor's move came as Trade Minister Steven Ciobo offered a strident defence of the government's handling of the frictions with China and said he had been



reassured by Chinese officials of progress on labelling issues that were slowing the flow of Australian wine into China.

After *The Australian* reported this month there had been little movement on key points from Mr Turnbull's March meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Mr Ciobo acknowledged there were issues with a \$500 million deal to open up access for premium Australian chilled beef to China.

Read more (Paywall): <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/labor-to-send-troubleshooters-to-help-mend-chinese-ties/news-story/6169a116a9d1b0320ad3a3c0484e7f32>

## 6. Get used to a more tense relationship with Beijing

**21/05/18**

**The AFR View**

**Australian Financial Review**

Last Tuesday, in a piece published on The Australian Financial Review's opinion pages, former Australian ambassador to China, Geoff Raby, upbraided Julie Bishop for Canberra's new frosty relationship with Beijing and called for her removal as Foreign Minister. The story developed into a vociferous debate about Australia's relationship with China, with a rather terse and defensive government justifying its record.

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.afr.com/opinion/editorials/get-used-to-a-more-tense-relationship-with-beijing-20180520-h10aq3>

## 7. China problems are real but it's no single minister's fault

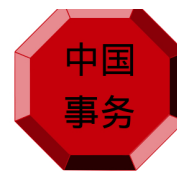
**21/05/18**

**Allan Gyngell (China Matters Board Director)**

**Australian Financial Review**

Trade Minister Steve Ciobo's visit to Shanghai last week ends a long drought in Australian ministerial visits to China. But it doesn't solve Australia's China problem.

There's no conceivable future for Australia – good or bad – in which China will not play a central role. As the Turnbull [government's foreign policy White Paper](#) said last year, China has "growing influence on the regional and global issues of greatest consequence to our security and prosperity".



Under President Xi Jinping, Beijing is feeling more confident that it has a model of government that works for it, and that it can shape an international order different from the one we have known since the Second World War. China is Australia's largest trading partner and the biggest source of new foreign direct investment. More than a million Australians claim Chinese ancestry. About the same number of Australians were born in China as in New Zealand.

*Read more (Paywall): <http://www.afr.com/opinion/columnists/china-problems-are-real-but-its-no-single-ministers-fault-20180521-h10bhj?btis>*

## 8. While Australia watched a wedding, China was making its next move

**21/05/18**

**Peter Hartcher**

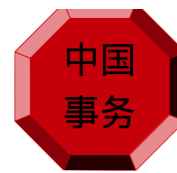
**Sydney Morning Herald**

When not busy with a celebrity wedding in a far-off land, Australia and the US have spent recent days preoccupied with problems of trade with China. But have you noticed what the Chinese government has been busy with over the last few days? For the first time, the People's Liberation Army Air Force on Friday landed heavy bombers on an island in the South China Sea. Three weeks ago it installed anti-ship and anti-aircraft cruise missiles on some of the islands.

Meaning what, exactly? "The gloves are off, in layman's terms," says the Lowy Institute's director of international security studies, Euan Graham. "The Chinese have abandoned the fiction of a non-militarised presence in the South China Sea." All the islands that China is arming are claimed by other countries in the region.

But isn't China in negotiations with those countries over a code of conduct to prevent any such escalation? Indeed it is. "This is a very overt slap in the face to be doing things that are overtly military and offensively military while there's a diplomatic activity designed to prevent exactly this sort of thing from happening," Graham tells me.

*Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/while-australia-watched-a-wedding-china-was-making-its-next-move-20180521-p4zghz.html>*



## 9. Political donor Chau Chak Wing behing UN bribe scandal, Parliament told

**22/05/18**

**Nick McKenzie and Richard Baker  
Sydney Morning Herald**

One of Australia's most generous political donors has been named in Parliament as funding the bribery of a senior United Nations official, and as being closely associated with the lobbying arm of the Chinese Communist Party.

In a dramatic move that may further inflame diplomatic tensions between Beijing and Canberra, Liberal MP Andrew Hastie has used parliamentary privilege to identify billionaire businessman Chau Chak Wing as an unindicted co-conspirator in an FBI bribery case.

Mr Hastie, who chairs the joint intelligence and security committee, told Parliament on Tuesday that he had recently learned from US authorities that Mr Chau – a big donor to both main Australian political parties – was the co-conspirator identified in a New York court indictment as "CC-3". CC-3 is alleged in the indictment to have funded a \$US200,000 (\$263,000) bribe which was funnelled to the former president of the UN general assembly, John Ashe, in 2013.

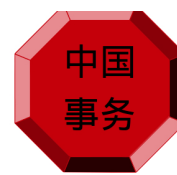
Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/political-donor-chau-chak-wing-behind-un-bribe-scandal-parliament-told-20180522-p4zgs5.html>

## 10. Charge That Tycoon Bribed U.N. Official Fuels Fears of Chinese Meddling

**22/05/18**

**Emily Baumgaertner and Jacqueline Williams  
The New York Times**

A billionaire businessman, previously accused of meddling in Australia's politics on behalf of China, conspired to bribe a prominent United Nations diplomat, an Australian politician said on Tuesday, raising new concerns about China's efforts to interfere in democracies worldwide.



Andrew Hastie, chairman of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, identified the businessman, Chau Chak Wing, as the person in a 2015 bribery case previously called only Co-conspirator No. 3.

"CC-3 is Dr. Chau Chak Wing," Mr. Hastie said in a speech in the Australian Parliament's Federation Chamber, adding, "The same man who co-conspired to bribe the U.N. president of the General Assembly, John Ashe." He continued, "The same man with extensive contacts in the Chinese Communist Party, including the United Front."

*Read more (Paywall): <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/22/world/australia/bribery-un-china-chau-chak-wing.html>*

## 11. Julie Bishop raises objections to China's activities in South China Sea

**22/05/18**

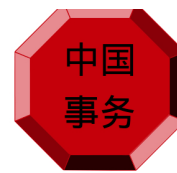
**Katharine Murphy  
The Guardian**

Julie Bishop has raised objections to China's militarisation of the South China Sea after weekend reports that a Chinese bomber capable of carrying a nuclear warhead had been on the disputed Paracel Islands.

With relations between Canberra and Beijing tense, courtesy of the Turnbull government's pursuit of a crackdown against foreign interference, the Australian foreign minister has held a lengthy meeting with her Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, on the sidelines of the meeting of G20 foreign ministers in Argentina. Bishop characterised the discussion as "very warm and candid and constructive" and said she would shortly visit the Chinese capital.

She said she had a good long-term relationship with her Chinese counterpart and told the ABC that Australia would "continue to approach our bilateral relationship with goodwill and realism and pragmatism and open communication".

*Read more: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/may/22/julie-bishop-raises-objections-to-chinas-activities-in-south-china-sea>*



## 12. Julie Bishop believes China will stop acting against Australia's trade interests

**22/05/18**

**Peter Hartcher and Kirsty Needham  
Sydney Morning Herald**

Julie Bishop says she raised with her Chinese counterpart all the reported pressure tactics that Beijing has been using against Australia's trade interests and she now expects them to stop.

Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister also confirmed that the Chinese regime had used the much-anticipated meeting to complain to her about Canberra's proposed foreign interference laws.

Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Wang Yi had "raised the concern that it was aimed at China," Ms Bishop told Fairfax Media. "I assured him that it was not, that it was the sort of legislation a number of other countries have in place as well."

Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/julie-bishop-believes-china-will-stop-acting-against-australia-s-trade-interests-20180522-p4zgvm.html>

## 13. China's account of 'cool' meeting in contrast to Julie Bishop's

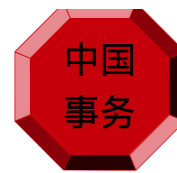
**22/05/18**

**Kirsty Needham  
Sydney Morning Herald**

Australia needs to take off its biased, "coloured glasses" and stop recoiling from China for the relationship to "return to the right track", China's foreign ministry has said in a terse statement following a meeting with Julie Bishop. The Chinese version of events stands in stark contrast to Ms Bishop's account of the same meeting, which she described as "very warm and candid and constructive".

According to a cool statement from China, released on Tuesday afternoon in Beijing, Foreign minister Wang Yi told Ms Bishop when they met in Argentina on Monday that it was "not an official bilateral meeting", but rather he wanted to "exchange views with you on bilateral relations".





The Chinese statement appears to confirm Beijing's recent freeze on high level official meetings with Australia, despite attempts by the Turnbull government to play down the diplomatic stoush.

Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/asia/china-s-account-of-cool-meeting-in-contrast-to-julie-bishop-s-20180522-p4zgsx.html>

#### 14. Australian beef exports safe despite Chinese state media threat, industry body says

**23/05/18**

**Michael Walsh  
ABC News**

In an editorial published late last night, the paper suggested wiping \$6.45 billion worth of Australian imports — specifically naming beef and wine as areas worth cutting — in order to "make Australia pay for its arrogant attitudes" towards China.

The newspaper said China's recent promise to increase US imports meant "replacing Australia" would be easy, but the Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) is not convinced.

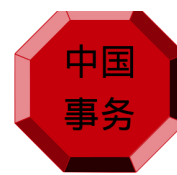
Read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-23/australian-beef-exports-safe-despite-chinese-tabloid-threat/9791732?section=business>

#### 15. The China-Australia relationship is strained, but not broken

**23/05/18**

**Stephen Dziedzic  
ABC News**

Australia's relationship with China is not in crisis — but no-one would blame you for thinking that it is. After all, there's been plenty of turbulence this week. Look at the treatment meted out to the Foreign Minister Julie Bishop after she met her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Argentina on Tuesday. Ms Bishop had been trumpeting the meeting for days as she dismissed a crescendo of bad news about frayed ties with our largest trading partner.



And the Foreign Minister painted a rosy picture of the tete-a-tete in its aftermath, telling the ABC it had been "warm, candid and constructive". But there wasn't a flicker of warmth in Beijing's account of the meeting. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs made it clear that Wang Yi was not happy with Australia.

Read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-23/china-australia-relationship-strained-not-broken/9791468>

## 16. CBA sells Chinese life insurance stake for \$668m

**23/05/18**

**Clancy Yeates**

**Sydney Morning Herald**

Commonwealth Bank will offload its stake in Chinese insurer BoComm Life in a \$668 million deal that will bolster the bank's capital position and further cut its exposure to wealth management.

As banks look to sell out of the lower-returning life insurance sector, CBA on Wednesday said it would sell its 37.5 per cent stake in BoComm Life Insurance Company to Japan's Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance for RMB 3.2 billion (\$668 million).

Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/business/banking-and-finance/cba-sells-chinese-life-insurance-stake-for-668m-20180523-p4zgxt.html>

## 17. Chinese debt a major risk to Australia, says RBA governor Philip Lowe

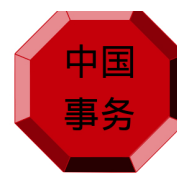
**23/05/18**

**Peter Martin & Jennifer Duke**

**Sydney Morning Herald**

Reserve Bank governor Philip Lowe has pointed to the build-up of debt and bad loans in China as one of the biggest risks facing the Australian economy, noting similar situations in the past have led to a slowdown in growth or financial crisis.

"Perhaps the single biggest risk to the Chinese economy at the moment lies in the financial sector and the big run-up in debt there over the past decade," he



told a forum at the Australia-China Relations Institute (ACRI) in Sydney on Wednesday night. "Among the largest economic risks that Australia faces is something going wrong in China."

China was not only the main destination for Australia's iron ore and coal but had become the largest destination for a range of food and service exports. Chinese tourists accounted for one quarter of all the tourist dollars spent in Australia, and Chinese students for one third of all education exports. Service exports to China exceeded those to the United States and Britain combined.

Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/chinese-debt-a-major-risk-to-australia-says-rba-governor-philip-low-20180523-p4zh1r.html>

## 18. China's Pacific bases and the US pivot to Asia obscure Australia's role in militarising the region

**24/05/18**

**Stuart Rolo**

**ABC News**

A recent article claiming the Chinese Government approached officials in Vanuatu about building a permanent military presence on the island, and the response to it by Australian officials, highlights the threat such a base would pose to Australian security.

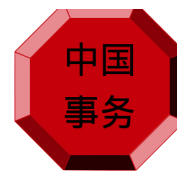
Vanuatu's Foreign Minister, Ralph Regenvanu, denied the "paranoid" claims, and said Vanuatu was against any sort of militarisation of its territory.

China's Department of Foreign Affairs also refuted the story, labelling it "fake news", and Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop affirmed her belief Australia remained Vanuatu's strategic partner of choice.

It appears the matter can be laid to rest for now, but we in Australia should take it as an opportunity for reflection.

The matter of Chinese bases in the Pacific will almost certainly arise again, and the major reason will be the US-led strategic encirclement of China, in which Australia plays an important role.

Read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-22/china-military-south-pacific-vanuatu-us-bases-australia/9770408>



## 19. Keep China dialogue open

**24/05/18**

**Rowan Callick**  
**The Australian**

When, oh when, will Australia return to a settled, “positive” relationship with China?

Answer: never.

Our relationship has become so broad and deep, across so many parts of our societies and economies, that it can never now be characterised crudely as merely “good” or “bad”.

The Australian’s front page yesterday was dominated by stories about the relationship, which might be interpreted as “negative”.

Some business leaders in Australia in their entirely understandable frustration, keep urging our politicians to return to a halcyon era of positivity where every element of the relationship was a win-win.

But times have changed, and the relationship is now more complex, and can no longer be summed up so simply.

*Read more (Paywall):* <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/rowan-callick/keep-china-dialogue-open/news-story/6b2d7cdc3f4b1b6ae14c78e6c7658afc>

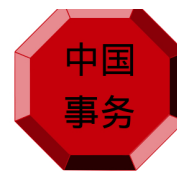
## 20. Breaking the Australia–China media feedback loop

**24/05/18**

**Fergus Ryan**  
**The Strategist**

Julie Bishop was playing a dangerous game when she privately blamed the Australian media’s ‘negative reports’ for adversely affecting Australia–China relations during her meeting with her Chinese counterpart on the sidelines of the G20 in Argentina this week.

The Foreign Minister didn’t include any mention that she had scapegoated Australia’s fourth estate in her own rosy version of the encounter, but Beijing



made sure to highlight it in their version of what they pointedly described as 'not an official bilateral meeting'.

No doubt Beijing will be delighted to amplify Bishop's message that the Australian media is to blame for the nadir in relations between the two countries. After all, it was the Chinese embassy in Canberra that first laid the blame on 'fake news' from the Australian media for 'harming mutual trust'.

*Read more: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/breaking-the-australia-china-media-feedback-loop/>*

## 21. Australia Post opens new 'concept store' that will only ship to China

**24/05/18**

**Tara Francis Chan**

**Sydney Morning Herald**

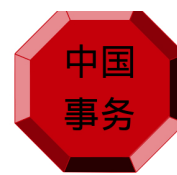
Australia Post has opened a retail outlet that only sends mail to China. The concept store, located in the Sydney suburb of Chatswood, doesn't provide any normal postal services like selling stamps or mailing parcels around the country. Instead, it sells health and beauty products that can only be shipped to China.

According to Australia Post, the purpose of the store is to "test customer demand for selected products to be sent to China".

"This store is not a post office. It will sell a limited number of lines, such as health and beauty products, in conjunction with international freight options," a spokesperson said.

At this stage it's just a pilot store and there are no plans to extend it to more than one location, but its very existence hints at the spending power that foreign Chinese shoppers wield in Australia.

*Read more: <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/breaking-the-australia-china-media-feedback-loop/>*



## 22. Loose lips on China have cost Australia dearly

**24/05/18**

**Bob Carr**

**Sydney Morning Herald**

Angela Merkel is the leader of America's most important ally. The differences between democratic, US-aligned Germany and Communist-ruled China are real. China's cutting edge industries now challenge Germany's lead in manufacturing. But today Angela Merkel is in China, to talk to its leaders in Beijing and to promote German innovation in Shenzhen.

All agree, however, that Australia-China relations are off the rails; on some evidence, more than any time since diplomatic relations began in 1972. India is a partner of growing importance for the United States, but earlier this month it slammed the door on Australia joining it in military exercises that included the US and Japan. The reason? We are seen as the outlier among American allies, embodying the most extreme anti-China views, and India wants a working relationship with its neighbour.

Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/loose-lips-on-china-have-cost-australia-dearly-20180524-p4zhc0.html>

## 23. US says Australian ties still strong after uproar over Andrew Hastie's China speech

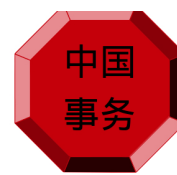
**24/05/18**

**Andrew Tillett**

**Australian Financial Review**

US officials have hosed down suggestions diplomatic ties have been damaged after Liberal MP Andrew Hastie named a prominent Chinese-Australian businessman as an alleged co-conspirator in a United Nations bribery case. Labor has suggested Mr Hastie's decision to cite Federal Bureau of Investigations information to identify Chau Chak Wing as responsible for funding a \$US200,000 (\$263,000) bribe to former UN president John Ashe would make Americans reluctant to share confidential information in the future.

"It's obvious that, when someone in the position of the chair of the joint intelligence and security committee of the Australian Parliament uses publicly



information obtained from US agencies, that is going to raise concerns and potentially leads to some loss of confidence in our ally in the way in which it shares information with us," shadow attorney-general Mark Dreyfus said. But government sources indicated there had been no blowback from the US, as the row with China over interference in Australian politics rumbled on.

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.afr.com/news/us-says-australian-ties-still-strong-after-uproar-over-andrew-hasties-china-speech-20180524-h10i6j>

## 24. China objects to Australian official's meeting with Taiwan President

**24/05/18**

**Lisa Murray**

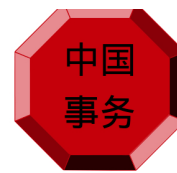
**Australian Financial Review**

Just as Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has moved to mend ties with China, another point of tension has emerged in the relationship after the Chinese embassy complained about an Australian official's meeting with Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen. The meeting earlier this month between Australia's new Taipei representative, Gary Cowan, and Ms Tsai was made public through a post on Mr Cowan's official Twitter account.

It showed a photograph of a smiling Mr Cowan, who took the position in Taipei in January, receiving a bottle of single malt whisky from the Taiwanese leader, before discussing "peace, security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific". This formal introduction would be unremarkable except that Australia, like most countries, has not officially recognised Taiwan since the early 1970s and has a representative office rather than an embassy in Taipei.

A spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry told *The Australian Financial Review*: "Sticking to the one-China policy is a precondition and foundation for any country to develop a diplomatic relationship with China and this is widely accepted by the international community.

Read more (Paywall): <http://www.afr.com/news/world/asia/china-objects-to-australian-officials-meeting-with-taiwan-president-20180522-h10doq>



## 25. Trade Minister adamant China-Australia relationship strong, despite disagreements

**24/05/18**

**Ben Fordham**

**2GB**

The Federal Trade Minister says Australia's relationship with China is strong and mature, despite differences. China is our biggest trading partner with \$175 billion worth of two-way trade between us. Steve Ciobo tells Ben Fordham, both China and Australia recognise there are areas where they don't agree. "What's important is, where we do have areas where we disagree that we do that in a respectful way." The Trade Minister points out we also have differences with most of our trading partners including Japan, USA, Korea and Indonesia.

But when it comes to China, Minister Ciobo says, "there is a predisposition among some to blow up incidents and events and make them bigger than they ought to be".

He says we need to look at the relationship in its totality which he says is strong and mature – something that's reflected in trade growth.

*Read more: <https://www.2gb.com/trade-minister-adamant-china-australia-relationship-strong-despite-disagreements/>*

## 26. Universities, political parties opt to keep Chau Chak Wing donations

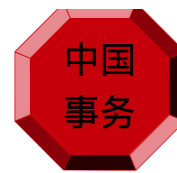
**24/05/18**

**David Wroe**

**Sydney Morning Herald**

Major universities with buildings named after Chau Chak Wing say they have no plans to dissociate themselves from the billionaire accused of funding the bribery of a United Nations official despite emerging grassroots disquiet about the connections. At least two council members of Sydney University's Nicholson Museum - which will next year become part of the new Chau Chak Wing Museum - have expressed a strong desire to the university's management for the controversial political donor's name to be removed from the institution.





The concerns were raised this week after Liberal MP Andrew Hastie used parliamentary privilege to accuse Mr Chau of being an unindicted co-conspirator who provided US\$200,000 that was later channelled to the former president of the UN general assembly, John Ashe, in 2013.

Read more: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/universities-political-parties-opt-to-keep-chau-chak-wing-donations-20180524-p4zh9g.html>

## 27. Australian exporters still need to work harder at understanding Chinese business, expert says

**25/05/18**

**Clint Jasper**

**ABC News**

A fiery editorial in a Chinese state-owned paper will not hurt the roughly \$11.5 billion worth of Australian exports, but experts say it highlights some issues with the trade.

The Global Times, a paper that measures success by how much it gets quoted in foreign media, **took direct aim at beef and wine exports**, which it said could be replaced with similar goods from other countries.

Part of wider criticism about the state of Australia's diplomatic relations with China, wine and beef were chosen specifically as luxury consumer products worth about \$1 billion and \$780 million in annual exports respectively. A number of experts have already weighed in on the state of affairs between Australia and China, saying it is not in crisis at the moment. But given their exposure, farmers are acutely aware that any disruption of the trading relationship will hit them hard.

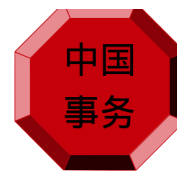
Read more: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2018-05-25/farmers-on-china-australia-trade-tension/9794680>

## 28. Hastie was right on China, and we're too hasty to self-censor on its influence

**25/05/18**

**Michael Shoebridge**

**The Australian**



Liberal MP Andrew Hastie's statement in parliament about Chinese influence in Australia has ignited the already fiery voices claiming the government is mis-man-aging the relationship with China. There is loose talk about a "problem" the Australian government has because some ministers have the nerve to say awkward things. They dare say that Australian interests are not the same as those of the Chinese state, and that our domestic political debates and decision-making should be free of foreign interference.

Chinese Communist Party leaders in Beijing want to shift this thinking back to its "correct line" so that we can all work in the spirit of developing the great Chinese nation and benefiting from its rise in a spirit of win-win.

Beijing has the tools at hand to assist in this important work "correcting" other countries' political thinking. In Australia's case, the CCP leaders can turn up or down the level of official engagement between Australian ministers and their counterparts — and they can call on its United Front Work -Department.

*Read more (Paywall): <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/hastie-was-right-on-china-and-were-too-hasty-to-selfcensor-on-its-influence/news-story/78ad9a5a58c288780a1c1f86004594a9>*