

## Seventh National Meeting of China Matters

Held in partnership with Opera Australia

Sydney Opera House, 7 June 2018

The objective of the meeting is to formulate specific policy proposals regarding Australia's relations with the People's Republic of China (PRC). The meeting will be conducted *off-the-record*.

Sessions I and III have three panellists and a moderator. Each panellist has *seven* minutes to make remarks and is encouraged to take a stance on a controversial issue related to the session focus. The moderator will then open up the discussion to everyone. Comments are expected to be a maximum of *four* minutes. Session II is a debate. In Session IV each panellist summarises the key recommendation from one of the day's sessions and then provides a new angle or recommendation to the challenge under discussion.

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.

- 1000 Morning tea and coffee
- 1020 Participants to take their seats
- 1030 – 1040 **Welcome** Ms **Linda Jakobson**, CEO and Founding Director, China Matters
- 1040 – 1225 **Session I** **What should Australia's new China narrative look like?**
- Panellists: Mr **Geoff Culbert**, CEO, Sydney Airport
- Mr **Allan McKinnon**, Deputy Secretary, National Security, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
- The Hon **Steven Ciobo** MP, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment;  
Member for Moncrieff, Queensland
- Moderator: Ms **Linda Jakobson**, CEO and Founding Director, China Matters
- The importance of the PRC to Australia's economic, strategic and security interests is generally acknowledged. But there is no consensus on how the Australian government should describe the necessity of a good relationship in a manner that also resonates with the Australian public.
- Panellists and participants are asked to answer three questions: What should Australia do to begin building a new narrative on China? What is the narrative that enables us to pursue robust domestic and international security strategies *and* a positive, constructive relationship with the PRC? Should Australia adopt a more ASEAN-like narrative regarding the PRC?
- 1225 – 1230 Group photo *Steps of the Sydney Opera House*
- 1230 – 1325 Lunch *Hosted by PwC, founding partner of China Matters*
- 1253 – 1255 Introduction by Mr **Rory Jeffes**, CEO, Opera Australia
- 1255 – 1307 Recital by Ms **Stacey Alleaume** and Mr **Tahu Matheson**

1325 – 1440 **Session II Debate: Can Australia counter PRC economic retaliation?**

Debaters: Dr **Chaibong Hahm**, President, Asan Institute for Policy Studies, Seoul  
Mr **Tony Shepherd** AO, Chairman, Macquarie Specialised Management

Moderator: Mr **Tim Harcourt**, Host, The Airport Economist; JW Nevile Fellow in Economics, University of New South Wales

In 2017, the deployment by the United States of an anti-missile system, THAAD, to South Korea led to PRC retaliatory trade actions against South Korea. The THAAD dispute could be instructive in light of recent diplomatic tensions between Australia and the PRC.

Questions to consider: Is there a lesson to be learned from the THAAD crisis? Should Australia take a stand on values-based issues with the PRC even when these might court retaliation, and if so, what should those issues be? What issues could lead to the current diplomatic freeze becoming economic retaliation by the PRC? What are the red lines, for Australia and the PRC?

1440 – 1505 Afternoon tea and coffee

1505 – 1635 **Session III How do we ensure collaboration with PRC tech and innovation is to our advantage?**

Panellists: Dr **Heather Smith** PSM, Secretary, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

Mr **Michael Cannon-Brookes Sr**, Director, Cannon-Brookes Consulting

Professor **Benjamin Eggleton**, Director, University of Sydney Nano Institute

Moderator: Professor **Michael Wesley**, Dean, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University; Board Director, China Matters

The PRC is set to become the region's science and technology giant. Australia simply cannot shut down research collaboration with others despite the challenges of IP theft and possible infiltration by malign actors into Australia's high-tech research.

Panellists and participants are asked: How do we protect our security interests while avoiding actions that contradict our commitment to free and open research? What are the principles and processes we should adopt? Are existing safeguards sufficient to ensure that our collaboration with the PRC is not detrimental to our interests?

1640 – 1745 **Session IV What should Australia do? Formulating specific policy recommendations**

Panellists: Session I: Professor **Allan Gyngell** AO, National President, Australian Institute of International Affairs; Board Director, China Matters

Session II: Mr **Nicholas Curtis** AM, Executive Director, BBI Group; Co-founder and Director, E-Name

Session III: Mr **Andrew Parker**, Partner and Asia Practice Leader, PwC; Board Director, China Matters

Moderator: Ms **Natalie Cope**, CEO, Australia China Business Council (NSW); Member of Advisory Council, China Matters