



China  
Matters



## Fourth National Meeting of China Matters

Held in partnership with Perth USAsia Centre

22 September 2016

The objective of the meeting is to formulate specific policy proposals regarding Australia-China relations. The meeting will be conducted off-the-record.

Each session has three panellists and a moderator. Each panellist has seven minutes to make remarks and is encouraged to take a stand on a controversial issue relating to the session focus. The moderator will then probe the issue(s) further with the panellists before opening up the discussion to everyone. Comments are expected to be maximum four minutes.

The 'jazz club style' format of the meeting is designed to create a conversation between peers. While panellists initiate the conversation, their remarks throughout the session must be brief, so that the majority of the session is an open back-and-forth among all participants.

0830 Morning tea and coffee

0850 Participants move to meeting area to take their seats

0900 – 0915 **Welcome** Professor **Gordon Flake**, CEO, Perth USAsia Centre  
Ms **Linda Jakobson**, Founding Director, China Matters

0915 – 1045 **Session I Do China's regional ambitions threaten Australia's interests?**

Panellists: Mr **Dennis Richardson** AO, Secretary, Department of Defence  
Vice Admiral **Ray Griggs** AO CSC RAN, Vice Chief of the Defence Force Group  
The Hon **Kim Beazley** AC, National President, Australian Institute of International Affairs; Senior Fellow, Perth USAsia Centre

Moderator: Ms **Linda Jakobson**, Founding Director, China Matters

Panellists and participants should focus on the Australian government's policy responses to the ambitious regional agenda of China's President Xi Jinping, including Australia's stance if China continues to reject the International Tribunal's judgements on China's maritime claims and maritime behaviour.

Key questions: Do Chinese regional ambitions threaten Australian interests? How should Canberra respond to Beijing's efforts to expand China's influence and counterbalance Washington? Is diplomacy effective in managing China's regional ambitions? If it is, what precisely is Canberra's role? What is the role of business?

1045 – 1105 Coffee break



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1105 – 1235 **Session II Does Australia *really* welcome investment from China? A closer look at agribusiness in Western Australia and northern Australia**

Panellists: Mr **Grame Barty**, Acting CEO, Executive Director, Intl Operations, AusTrade  
Mr **Adam Handley**, Managing Partner, Minter Ellison WA; President, Australia China Business Council (WA)  
Mr **Andrew Hastie** MP, Member for Canning, Western Australia

Moderator: Mr **Graham Fletcher**, First Assistant Secretary, North Asia Division, Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Member of Advisory Council, China Matters

Panellists and participants should focus on the challenges China's transforming economy poses for Australian business, with particular focus on Western Australia and northern Australia. Participants should consider how to mitigate the risks of Chinese investment and better communicate the terms of welcomed investment to both investors and the public.

Key questions: How can business and government better articulate to investors and the public what investment we do and don't welcome? What are our concerns? Do we need to re-evaluate investment appraisal procedures e.g. introducing a 'negative list' for investors? What lessons can be learned from WA's experience with Chinese investment?

1235 – 1350 Lunch

1350 – 1520 **Session III China's Deepening Engagement in Australian Society: Is it a concern?**

Panellists: The Hon **Stephen Smith**, Professor of International Law, University of Western Australia; Board Director, Perth USAsia Centre  
Mr **Peter Cai** Research Fellow, Lowy Institute for International Policy  
Mr **Allan McKinnon**, Deputy Secretary, National Security, Dept of Premier & Cabinet

Moderator: Professor **Michael Wesley**, Incoming Dean, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU; Chair of Advisory Council, China Matters

Panellists and participants should focus on the implications for Australian society of the PRC government's influence in Australia. Many sectors are funded by Chinese money; PRC derived funds support our higher education sector, media organisations and even political campaigns. PRC officials are more active in trying to sway Australian public opinion.

Key questions: What specific measures should the Australian government adopt to counter-balance Chinese government influence in society (taking into account that the measures should not be seen as discriminatory against China or risk the beneficial aspects of our ties with China)? How can the government pre-empt and manage populist Sinophobic reactions and the potential erosion of public support for Australia's relationship with China? How should universities and others respond when PRC officials voice displeasure with their positions or decisions? How can we have transparency in funding of education and research, student associations, and the media without discouraging Chinese money?

1525 – 1645 **Session IV Wrap-up discussion about specific policy recommendations**

Moderator: Professor **Bates Gill**, Professor of Asia-Pacific Strategic Studies, School of Strategic and Defence Studies, ANU; Board Director, China Matters



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