

## **A new China narrative for Australia**

### **Submission by Anne Taylor**

3 April 2019

I am an ordinary Australian citizen who is greatly alarmed at the extent of our dangerous dependence on China.

What worries me most is the fact that the Foreign Investment Review Board is not protecting Australia's national interest. It has allowed China to buy our large agricultural properties, gas pipelines, electricity grids, water allocations, wineries, medical companies and hospitals, regional aerodromes which China is upgrading into flying schools to train its own pilots, residential and commercial properties, and also to buy ridiculously long leases of our ports. No foreign country, particularly China, should be given control of our ports.

Even though Australia has not formally signed up to the BRI, a map of the BRI / Silk Maritime Route shows Australia with Darwin, Newcastle and Melbourne on the map (*MERICCS BRI database*.) These are the ports which China has leased for 99 years, 98 years and 50 years respectively. There is nothing else (no other cities) on this BRI map of Australia apart from these ports which signifies to me China's intentions for the BRI. The lease of the Port of Darwin in 2015 has weakened our defence from the north. Landbridge planned to put this port on the BRI, yet the sale of the lease did not even go through the FIRB. It happened while Australia was asleep at the wheel.

China now owns 1.9% of Australia's foreign water entitlements, much of which is for the Chinese-owned Cubbie Station. How can this be good for our country when many farmers do not have access to this water?

China does not recognise our claim to Antarctica and has already built two stations in our Australian Antarctic Territory while currently building its fifth in other parts of Antarctica. China's activity in our AAT is hardly being monitored, and yet its icebreaker the "Snow Dragon" has just returned to China after completing its 35th trip to Antarctica for "research" purposes. Australia asleep at the wheel again.

Confucius Institutes have popped up in our schools and universities to subject our children to China's "soft power" CCP propaganda.

The United Front has refused to declare itself on the new Foreign Influence Register, denying any links to the CCP; however, this may not be the case.

Chris Bowen and many others have flatly said we need foreign investment in Australia, but this is not the same as foreign ownership. How can it be good for Australia to sell our land,

infrastructure and critical assets to China? We will never get our properties or assets back because they have been bought for China's strategic purposes.

We should pass laws that ban foreign ownership in our country because I am very afraid that in time we will become a vassal state of China. We are literally selling the farm to feed China's 1.4 billion people.

In my opinion we should look for other trading partners that share our values and that we can trust. We are currently being punished with our coal languishing for "inspection" on PRC docks, no doubt because we banned Huawei from rolling out the 5G network. Communist China is an expansionist, authoritarian country that does not share our values and wants world domination through the BRI and its trading practices.

Scott Morrison is foolish to spend \$44 million to set up a foundation to strengthen Australia-China ties. It will be money completely wasted and will only encourage more PRC "soft power" in our country in the form of cultural exchanges, more Australia-China organisations and sister-city ties, which will be strategic for China and ultimately allow more infiltration by the CCP. China despises weakness and respects those that stand up to it. This "foundation" shows fear and weakness on the part of our government. Our two major parties are afraid of offending China and suffering retaliation as a result.

We should be disentangling ourselves from China rather than fostering more entanglement, and we should pass laws banning the sale and long-term leasing of our farms, infrastructure and water to foreign powers, including China. The FIRB appears to be encouraging the buy-up by China, not rejecting it. It needs to be replaced by a body that will protect our national interest, not sell it out.

When will our politicians and media start listening to our people? Unfortunately, however, many Australians are apathetic and have no knowledge of China's plans regarding Australia because they are seldom discussed in the mainstream media, and our politicians are giving us no choice but to embrace China and sell our country to it for "jobs" and "money injected into the economy". Anyone who objects to this is often labelled as racist or xenophobic. This has to stop. We have every right to want to protect our country and to stop it from being sold to China from under our noses.

I hope you now understand my feelings about the Australia-China relationship from which I strongly believe we should distance ourselves.