

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

### **Submission by Xiaoling Liu**

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Firstly, congratulations on a well-thought-out and balanced narrative! I hope the new Government will take notice and act accordingly.

Here are a couple of questions and comments for you to consider.

I think a big elephant in the room for the Australia-China relationship is that some powerful Australia decision makers and the media have a preference for the United States as the only acceptable world power. The new narrative tried to address this issue to some degree but I understand that timing may not be right for any Australian government to treat the two countries as equals.

An Australian government should make decisions based on our own national interests, not the US or China. In a number of places in the new narrative, it stated that the PRC seeks to displace the US as our region's dominant power and revise the norms for governance in this region. I hope these statements are accurately based on facts and not interpretation of some of the PRC's actions.

When I read "Deep and forward-looking engagement with the PRC means putting serious effort into making the PRC student experience in Australia meaningful", I feel a bit jolted. Is this really a top priority equal for "a mutually agreed upon set of rules for the region"? International students from the PRC should be treated the same as any other overseas students. If PRC students specifically have bad experiences, the root cause would most likely be policies and negative media comments on China's rising power or misuse of that power. So, the solution also lies in fixing the root causes.

Overall a good narrative.

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