



Australia China Business Council
澳大利亚中国工商业委员会

**Knowledge.
Networks.
Advocacy.**

Annual Review 2023



ACBC Annual Review

2023



Australia China Business Council
澳大利亚中国工商业委员会

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The Australia China Business Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia, and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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About Us

AUSTRALIA CHINA BUSINESS COUNCIL

We are Australia's largest and most representative member-based business association focussed on the Australia China business and economic relationship. We help shape Australia's business engagement with China. Since our formation in 1973, we have provided unmatched information, networking, events, and advocacy for the benefit of our members.

At a time of uncertainty in the global, economic and business environment, we remain determined to help our members develop nuanced understandings of Australia's bilateral relationship with China, inform decision making, and provide a platform for ongoing engagement, networking, and advocacy.

We exist to support and bring together individuals and firms to strengthen and build new relationships, share best practice, foster new opportunities, and provide practical support to help member businesses trade, invest and engage productively and successfully in and with China.

OUR VISION AND STRATEGIES

Our vision is to be Australia's peak and most influential business council dedicated to the promotion of Australia's capabilities and resources through constructive and sustainable Australia-China trade and investment relations, for the benefit of our members and the Australian community.

We have branches or operate in every state and territory in Australia, representing around 500 companies, collectively engaging with thousands of people across Australia, China, and the region.

Our members range from small and medium size enterprises to the largest corporations and institutions in Australia, across all industries and sectors.

We deliver value to our members by providing relevant and contemporary knowledge and insights, building networks, advocating on their behalf, and creating and supporting initiatives that foster cooperation and collaboration.

We do this through engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including our members, governments and their trade offices, industry associations, think tanks, research institutes, universities, industry working groups, the media, and the business community in general.

Our on-line and social media communications connect to over 20,000 individuals and are amplified by our strategic and collaborative partnerships in Australia and China.



Knowledge

We share knowledge and insights about business opportunities and issues in China and Australia.



Networks

We facilitate a growing and high-quality network of businesses and relationships.



Advocacy

We advocate for our members to support productive two-way trade and investment between China and Australia.

President's Message

DAVID OLSSON

I am delighted to introduce this Annual Review for 2022-2023, after a productive and successful year for the Australia China Business Council (ACBC).

As I write this report, Australian exports to China are proving resilient and surpassing pre-pandemic levels. During FY2023, total two-way trade almost reached a record-breaking \$300 billion.

The fundamental complementarity of the relationship between the two nations is driving that economic engagement.

Despite differences, each nation has a long-standing and shared investment in the success of the bilateral relationship. Neither country can maintain its standard of living or ensure the sustainability of its growth without doing business with the other.

In that context and as Australia and China celebrate 50 years since the formation of diplomatic relations, ACBC is proud of its role as a leading voice, and engagement platform, for this vital relationship.

Reflecting on the past year, we've seen encouraging progress, but challenges remain. We saw ministerial discussions intensify in the lead-up to the 50th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations in December 2022, which resulted in an agreement in April for a pathway to resolve a dispute over the export of one of Australia's main food commodities, barley, with the potential for others to come.

We have all welcomed that positive momentum, but the last year has not been easy for the business communities of Australia that engage with China. The ongoing effects of the pandemic and associated restrictions, as well as ongoing trade barriers affecting several key sectors, made the operating climate more difficult for many of our members.

In response, ACBC continued to support members throughout the year by championing the importance of business and commercial ties between our two countries.



We doubled down on our commitment to keeping lines of communication open, to providing opportunities to remain connected, and to continuing to explore new ways of looking at the relationship and working together.

Working within our existing strategic planning framework of Knowledge, Networks and Advocacy, we continued to align our member activities under this framework.

- We developed a strong series of virtual and in-person meetings and events with senior Australian and Chinese political and business leaders, focussed on key sectors such as food & agribusiness, international education, tourism, mining & resources, energy and health care.
- Our climate change collaboration program – Green Channel - moved into its second year of activation. Developed with support from the National Foundation for Australia China Relations, Green Channel is a platform to lead a different discussion around Australia's future relationship with China with a key focus on the emerging commercial and business opportunities arising from collaboration around climate change.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

- Our signature event, Canberra Networking Day 2022, returned as an in-person event and offered an extended program over three days for more than 200 delegates to look at the Australia - China relationship as it stands today and to share views on how it may look in the future.
- In April 2023, ACBC led the first industry-wide Australian business delegation to visit Mainland China and Hong Kong SAR in over three years. It provided delegates with an opportunity to absorb China's post-pandemic business environment, to better understand what its 'high growth' plans mean in practice, and which might guide Australia's future economic engagement with China.

In our advocacy, we have been clear: a nuanced approach toward China, Chinese investment and Chinese technological cooperation in various sectors and value chains can continue to play a crucial role in our economy's sophistication and diversification.

We are particularly proud of the efforts that we have made to encourage both nations to work together, and with other nations, to achieve their decarbonisation objectives and a more sustainable future.

Our bilingual [Climate Collaborations Report](#) was launched at major events in Australia and China. It highlighted the need for renewed business-led engagement with China on the platform of net-zero collaboration and underpinned a deeper conversation about how we might go about managing a major transformation of the bilateral trade and investment relationship to achieve net zero faster, together.

A sound economic relationship with China offers the potential not only to support the creation of employment in Australia, but create the jobs and industries of the future, to help in the industrial transformation of our country.

This is why ACBC has put so much effort this year in putting forward to our political leaders and policymakers ideas and plans for a robust economic and trade relationship and injecting into the public debate the facts and figures about its significance to the Australian economy.

We also know that the efforts of ACBC and the Australian Government would not have made such progress without the support from businesses and individuals that have remained committed to a positive trading relationship between Australia – China. It is our ACBC members have provided guidance, shared their knowledge and expertise and helped us to navigate the geopolitical challenges that we have faced over the past year.

As an organisation, our finances remain steady, with prudent oversight and governance. Pleasingly, our corporate membership increased slightly during this period. We continue to serve a community of hundreds of businesses, across multiple sectors and ranging from small businesses to large ASX listed companies.

Looking ahead, ACBC will continue to work hard on its mission of helping its members develop and promote their business in the complex and challenging China market. We will do this through:

- our national platform and active local branches;
- our deep China connections with Chinese institutions and businesses, as well as our relationships with AustChams in country; and
- our access to all levels of government and government agencies in China and Australia.

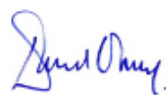
No other body provides this capacity.

I take great encouragement from the messages of support we receive from government, industry bodies and our member companies who truly value the leadership role that ACBC has played in initiating and driving our commercial engagement initiatives, not just over the last year, but for the five decades since ACBC was formed.

I am proud of everything that we have been able to achieve over the last year, with the support of our members, sponsors and stakeholders, and want to take this opportunity to warmly thank you.

I am grateful for the dedicated support of the ACBC's national board. And I wish to place on record my appreciation and thanks to the entire ACBC team, at branch and national level, for their hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment through this year.

As a result of these successes, I am confident we are in a strong position to support our members through 2024 and beyond.



David Olsson – Chair and President

Our Governance Structure

ACBC NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As at 30 June 2023



David Olsson
National President



Jingmin Qian
National Vice President



Keith Miranda
National Treasurer



Mary Studdert
Appointed Director and
Company Secretary



Jenny Chen
ACT Branch President



Helen Zhi Dent
NSW Branch
President



James Ashbridge
NT Branch
President



Carl Hinze
QLD Branch
Representative



Sean Keenihan
SA Branch Representative
and Appointed Director



Matthew Schofield
VIC Branch
President



James Clarke
WA Branch President



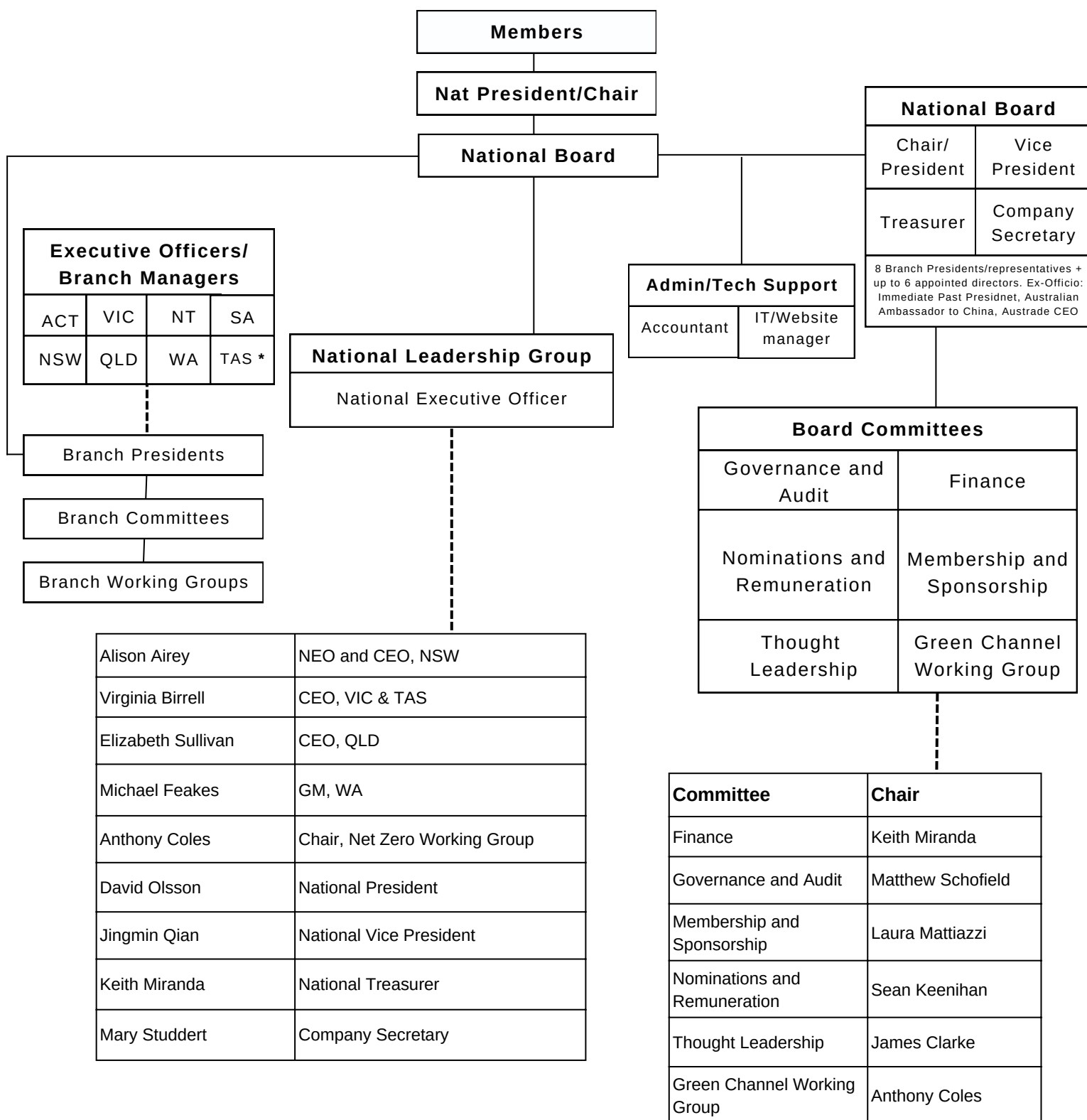
Laura Mattiazzi
Appointed Director

Our Operations

AUSTRALIA CHINA BUSINESS COUNCIL

ACBC ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

The National Leadership Group as at 30 June 2023 comprised as follows:



*TAS is administered by VIC

Our Engagement

OUR VOICE

Across our national network, we are working every day to elevate the voice of Australian companies and businesses and to highlight the role they play in maintaining a strong and productive economic relationship with China.

As a member-based organisation, our efforts this year have been focussed on supporting our members through challenging and uncertain times and ensuring we are a reliable and trusted source of information, insights, and connections for those doing business with China.

We use social media and digital communications through social media and e-newsletters to both amplify and target our reach and relevance. We also regularly engage with media through interviews, press releases, submissions and reports to ensure our views are communicated and shared with a wider public.

OUR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

We continue to run a vibrant and high-quality program of activities and events across our national network. While pandemic restrictions continued to present challenges for our traditional face-to-face activities and events, we used hybrid and digital formats to provide members with first-rate insights and access to networks and connections.

During the year, we hosted over 200 activities and events, ranging from national industry forums to local seminars and working group meetings, across a variety of sectors, industries and themes and focussed on bringing together business, government decision-makers and key stakeholders.





Green Channel – ACBC’s climate change collaboration program – moved into its second year of activation this year.

Launched as a national program in late 2021 with support from the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations, Green Channel is an overarching strategic platform to lead a different discussion around Australia’s future relationship with China, and at the same time focus on the emerging commercial and business opportunities arising from collaboration around climate change.

Businesses from Australia and China have a unique opportunity to be central players in the transition to net zero carbon emissions through their investment, their technologies, and their services.

Over the year, we have convened and hosted high-level roundtables, industry forums, webinars and podcasts across multiple sectors and industries, supported by regular blogs and commentary in our newsletters.

Highlights of the year include:

- Launch of our Climate Collaborations Report at Parliament House, Canberra and online with the Ambassador Graham Fletcher in Beijing. The report was prepared in collaboration with King & Wood Mallesons and flipped the climate change narrative from a daunting prospect to one of opportunities in cross-border collaboration.
- Convening a Government-Business Roundtable in Canberra. Co-hosted with ANU’s Centre on China in the World some 30 senior Australian business leaders from across industry sectors joined senior representatives from the Australian Government to discuss opportunities for greater collaboration with China on the transition to net zero.
- Leading the first Australian industry-wide business delegation to Mainland China and Hong Kong SAR just a month after the opening of China’s post-pandemic borders. Framed as a Green Economy delegation, senior executives from 15 companies, across a range of sectors had an opportunity to build understandings of China’s ‘high-growth’ plans through visits to innovation and technology industrial parks, gourmet and business briefings and networking events.



CANBERRA NETWORKING DAY 2023

This year's Canberra Networking Day brought together nearly 300 delegates and guests to meet, hear from our nation's leaders, and contribute to the national conversation on Australia China business and commercial engagement – at a policy level, and in practice.

CND opened with a gala dinner, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Australia China Business Council. Tim Watts, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, delivered a keynote address and a panel of business leaders offered their reflections on the last five decades and the future.

“Let’s challenge ourselves to think creatively about how, as leaders that are concerned about the Australia China relationship, we can shape our engagement in the decades ahead.”

David Olsson, National President

The following day, at Parliament House, speakers included Sen Don Farrell (Minister for Trade and Tourism), Sen Murry Watt (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry), Peter Dutton (Leader of the Opposition) and Sen Simon Birmingham (Opposition Spokesman for Foreign Affairs).

China's Ambassador to Australia HE Xiao Qian delivered remarks during the sessions and hosted a Reception at the Chinese Embassy. A high-profile list of speakers from Australia and China led vibrant panel sessions covering the green economy, digital economy and innovation.

The final day included a tour of the Australian National University's world-leading hydrogen storage pilot plant, and a round table luncheon with the ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr.



BUSINESS ROUNDTABLES AND INDUSTRY FORUMS

Business roundtable discussions and industry forums are a key feature of ACBC's program of activities.

They are convened either as events which are run on a national basis or at a branch level.

Over the year we convened, hosted and supported over 200 events of various types (webinars, hybrid and in-person events) in venues around Australia and, for the first time in four years, in Mainland China and Hong Kong SAR.

Participants included leaders from business, academia, and government, policymakers, ambassadors, trade officials, representatives of AustChams and industry associations, experts from think tanks and research institutions in both countries.

These opportunities provide timely and relevant information for all our members and contribute in invaluable ways to assisting members to better understand the China market and opportunities, and in shaping the relationship between Australia and China.

Examples of our program activities include:

High level Government - Business Roundtable	Canberra, 13 September 2022
Canberra Networking Day 2022	Canberra, 14 September 2022
Economic Report Roundtable: WA's Trade and Economic Relationship with China	Perth, 9 November 2022
ImpactX Summit, accelerating action for a net zero, nature positive future	Sydney, 11 November 2022
Australia-China Decarbonisation Roundtable: Hydrogen in Energy Intensive Industries and Economic Diversification	Brisbane, 23 November 2022
Green Economy Collaboration Dialogue: Shandong Province and South Australia	Adelaide, 24 November 2022
ACBC WA and CCCA (Perth Branch) Annual Ping Pong Friendship Games	Perth 7 December 2022
Climate Collaboration Roundtable: Launch of Chinese language edition of ACBC / KWM	Beijing, 9 December 2022

Collaborating towards Net Zero: Co-hosted with Austrade	Beijing, 9 December 2022
Australia China Low Carbon and Innovation Cooperation Forum: ACBC & CCCA	Virtual, 5 December 2022
Australia-China MedTech Commercialisation Forum	Melbourne, 7 February 2023
Australia-China Future Battery and EV Forum	Melbourne, 15 February 2023
Hong Kong: Digital Transformation and Opportunities	Brisbane, 22 March 2023
High-level government delegation: with HE Ma Zhaoxu, China's Executive Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs	Sydney, 11 April 2023
ACBC's China Green Economy Delegation.	23-28 April 2023
Beyond the Megacities: Opportunities in Regional China (Sichuan, Fujian, and Liaoning)	Sydney, 16 June 2023
Australian Ministerial Meeting: Sen Penny Wong (Minister for Foreign Affairs) and Sen Don Farrell (Minister for Trade and Tourism)	Adelaide, 23 April 2023
Australia-China Agribusiness Summit 2023	Melbourne, 21 June 2023
Duanwu Sports Diplomacy Forum 2023 , with national sponsor, MA Financial and a group of 16 business, community, sporting, and academic organisations.	Sydney, 23, 24 June 2023
High-level government delegation: with HE Gao Yunlong, Chairman of All China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC) and Vice-Chairman of the 14th National Committee of CPPCC.	Sydney, 26 June 2023
Post-Pandemic China-Australia Economic Cooperation Forum: supporting CCCA	Melbourne, 5 June 2023

WORKING GROUPS

Our working groups serve as knowledge hubs and information exchanges for our members as well as drive program content for our broader community. The working groups raise the profile of participants and promote the strength of Australian resources in their respective fields.

While most of the working groups operate at branch level, selected events are offered to all members on occasion.

Following is a listing of national and branch working groups in FY23:

National

- Net Zero Working Group

VIC Branch

- Agribusiness and Food Working Group
- China Capital Markets Working Group
- Education and Training Working Group
- Energy and Resources Working Group
- Executive Women's Forum
- Future Leader's Forum
- Health and Medical Research Working Group
- Property and Development Working Group
- Tourism and Visitor Experience Working Group

NSW Branch

- Financial Services Working Group
- Health and Aged Care Working Group
- Property and Construction Working Group
- Tourism Working Group

QLD Branch

- Education & Training Working Group
- Financial Services Working Group
- Food and Agriculture Working Group
- Health and Aged Care Working Group
- Mining, Energy & Resources Working Group
- Tourism Working Group

WA Branch

- Resources Subcommittee
- Energy Subcommittee
- Culture & Media Subcommittee
- Education & Tourism Subcommittee
- Food & Agriculture Subcommittee



REPORTS AND SUBMISSIONS

ACBC engages closely with federal government departments and agencies on a range of trade and investment issues and prepares and provides submissions to parliamentary enquiries on issues that represent the interests of our members.

These submissions and reports provide opportunities for member company executives to voice their positions directly to policymakers, and to engage with senior government officials.

Examples of reports and submissions released or made during FY23 include:

Format	Title
Submission	Department of Home Affairs: Inquiry into a Migration System for Australia's Future
Submission	Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth (JSCTIG) Inquiry: Australia's Transition to a Green Energy Superpower.
Report	Western Australia's Trade and Economic Relationship with China. Commissioned by ACBC WA and prepared by the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre
Report	The Climate Challenge: Opportunities for Collaboration between Australia and China. A bilingual report prepared by ACBC and King & Wood Mallesons.



30 days Series 3 by Zhang Kahai

THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE

Opportunities from collaboration between Australia and China

2022

**KING & WOOD
MALLESONS**
金杜律师事务所



Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA

Benefits to
Western Australian Households

GOVERNMENT AND DIPLOMATIC BRIEFINGS AND RELATIONSHIPS

As part of our member offering, we facilitate federal and state government briefings for our members on a regular basis, including with representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Australia and the Australian Embassy, Australian Consulates and the Australian Trade & Investment Commission (Austrade) in mainland China, Hong Kong SAR, and offices around Australia, as well as state and territory trade and investment bodies.

These events provide information on key policy issues and developments in the bilateral relationship, briefings on the latest developments on the ground in China, as well as economic and market updates.

Throughout FY23 we maintained regular communications with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Canberra and through our branches, with the Chinese Consulates around Australia, providing opportunities to discuss their portfolios, work priorities, and issues important to our members.

ACBC's Green Economy business delegation to mainland China Hong Kong SAR in April 2023, also provided an opportunity to meet with senior Hong Kong SAR government representatives and officials.

With pandemic travel restrictions being eased during the year, Chinese central and provincial government delegations resumed, providing opportunities for members to reconnect with senior Chinese government officials, working-level contacts and industry zone management, as well as sister-city and sister state-province relationships .



ISSUES BRIEFINGS AND INDUSTRY UPDATES

Throughout the year, we hosted a program of high-quality issues briefings and industry updates across our national network, comprising of both larger summits, forums and symposiums and smaller roundtables and briefings.

Speakers included China experts, economists, academics, industry leaders, business professionals and representatives of our membership who addressed recent and emerging developments, challenges and opportunities coming up for China operations and other matters of concern to members.

On average around 4 events were offered each week across our national network, with themes ranging from opportunities in the Greater Bay Area to strategies on e-commerce and online market entry.

With branches across Australia, we are uniquely able to offer events tailored to the needs and interests of relevant states and territories, and our members in those jurisdictions.

All upcoming events and opportunities for our members are posted on our website and included in monthly branch and national newsletters. To help our members better access the briefings, we record some events, which you can browse and view on the member-only section of our website. Many of the briefings are free to attend for members, and we offer sponsorship opportunities.



CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

During the year, we were delighted to be able to return to the in-person celebration of Chinese Lunar New Year and other cultural events, that were postponed due to pandemic restrictions.

Throughout the year, we used our national platform, connections, and networks to promote, facilitate, and maintain people-to-people and cultural links. We do so recognising that the maintenance of these connectors provides a vital ballast to the bilateral relationship.

Combining, in some cases, with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Australia, ACBC branches around Australia organised celebrations that highlight the many facets of the Australia-China relationship that have informed and sustained our commercial engagement and enriched our lives over many years

Social and networking highlights across the country were our end of end-of-year celebrations of 50 Years of Diplomatic Relations.

Other Cultural celebration highlights included:

- The Duanwu Spring Festival AFL Football Match
- International Women's Day High Tea celebrations
- Mid-Autumn Festival events
- WA Australia-China Celebrations Gala
- Ping Pong Friendship Games



Our Branch Executive Committees

Our branch executive committees build relationships with state government and industry stakeholders, design and stage our national and local activities, drive our advocacy, and connect our members.

We thank the volunteers in our branch executive committees for their time, expertise, and hard work in bringing our programs to life. Our organisation couldn't be so successful without your involvement!

Following, are reflections on FY23 from each of our branch executive committees:

VICTORIA

2023 proved a bumper year for ACBC Victoria with 43 online and in-person activities held in the last 12 months, servicing our diverse Australia-China business community and attracting more than 6,000 guests.

Our forums included the Australia-China Future Battery and EV Forum, which will lead to electric commercial vehicles being manufactured in Victoria. We also held and successful a Med-Tech Commercialisation forum.

Business Roundtables were held on Education, 100 Top Brands, Decarbonisation, the Inbound Chinese Tourism Market, with Consuls-General from Shanghai and Chengdu and the new Head of Post to Hong Kong. We also ran a series of Strategic China Briefings with the Victorian Government with presentations by expert speakers from key industries all with a focus on the export market.

We hosted the 7 delegations from China and organised business-to-business matching sessions for them. Provinces included Jiangsu, Sichuan, Shenzhen, Ningxia, Shanghai, Qinyuan and Guandong.

With speakers from Australia and China, our annual Australia-China Agribusiness Summit, now in its 9th year, successfully paved the way for further collaboration on sustainable growth, innovation and technology in the agricultural sector.

A key highlight was our Annual Australia China Economic Trade and Investment Expo in September with three days of product displays, a plenary with politicians and industry leaders, 8 industry forums, and celebratory dinner which attracted guests from Australia and China and around 5,000 visitors each day.

As a service to our members, we also held monthly Government Briefings online for our members with DFAT, Austrade, Global Victoria, and the City of Melbourne.



NEW SOUTH WALES

A renewed sense of optimism over opportunities in Australia-China business accompanied ACBC NSW's program of insights and events in NSW this year.

This was particularly clear in our celebration of 50 years of diplomatic relations, which occurred shortly after the meeting between Prime Minister Albanese and President Xi in November 2022. Some 250 members and their guests joined us for this celebration, which featured addresses by businesses such as Macquarie University, Goldwind and Blackmores.

We maintained our commitment to encouraging businesses to participate in the China International Import Expo (CIIE). In 2023, we again hosted our own information session. We also supported a roadshow by the CIIE itself, with the Director of the CIIE Bureau in Shanghai, Mr Chen Wang, travelling to Sydney for this.

Many of our members gathered for a business event to celebrate the first ever China-themed AFL match between the Sydney Swans and the West Coast Eagles at the SCG. ACBC was a member of the Duanwu Sports Diplomacy Forum, convened by MA Financial, to deliver this ground-breaking event.

We worked with partners to provide insights and connections to support Australia-China trade and investment links. In partnership with Investment NSW, we delivered Chinese-language webinars on export and intimate lunches for investors with NSW Government speakers. We look forward to building on this work in the year ahead.



2023 was a busy year for ACBC QLD, with 20 key events (in-person and online) held in the past 12 months, involving ACBC members and key stakeholders across government, business and industry, attracting more than 1,600 attendees.

ACBC QLD and ANU jointly held an Australia-China Decarbonisation Roundtable: Hydrogen & Economic Diversification. We also held Exclusive Member-Only Roundtables with Ms Elly Lawson, First Assistant Secretary, East Asia Division DFAT and with China's Consul-General to Queensland, Dr RUAN Zongze.

We hosted a major Welcome Reception with Strategic Partner Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) to Welcome the Vice Mayor of Shanghai HE HUA Yuan and delegation, coinciding with the Vice Mayor's Official Visit to Queensland to renew a Sister State Agreement between Queensland and Shanghai, as well as a TIQ CEO Insights Event, with TIQ's newly appointed CEO.

Our signature event for the year was the ACBC QLD-CCCA Chinese New Year Gala Dinner in the Main Auditorium at Brisbane City Hall on 9 February 2023, where we welcomed 400 guests, with 48 Corporate Tables. VIP Guests included ACBC QLD Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, Governor of Queensland; the Premier of Queensland and China's Consul-General to Queensland.

In December 2022 ACBC QLD signed a MOU with the China Chamber of Commerce in Australia (CCCA, Queensland Branch) for cooperation in trade and investment, which has paved the way for six key joint ACBC-CCCA events for our respective members and stakeholders. This has included a Welcome Reception for HE XIAO Qian, China's Ambassador to Australia on his first Official Visit to Queensland.

China is Queensland's largest two-way trading partner. ACBC QLD and our members remain committed to long-term engagement with China. We have worked hard collectively to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and welcome the continued improvements in bilateral relations, including China's reinstatement of Australia on China's list of approved outgoing group travel destinations (ADS). The much-anticipated resumption of direct flights to/from Brisbane by China Eastern and China Southern is a major step in promoting direct trade and investment and people-to-people ties between Queensland and China.



TASMANIA

During FY23, ACBC Tasmania continues to be overseen by the Victorian branch.

Members and friends in Tasmania are able to attend all the online events run out of Victoria and nationally, receive the Victorian/Tasmania ENewsletter, and participate in working group activities.

ACBC Victoria CEO, Virginia Birrell, is a member of the Tasmanian Alliance, a group of government departments, business organisations, and city councils that meet once a month online to provide business updates and insights.

Working with the Multicultural Commission of Tasmania and the University of Tasmania, the Victorian branch assisted with a grant application to the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations in the latest round to run a program of eight events in Tasmania designed to educate businesses on the benefits of employing Chinese graduates and interns in their local businesses. Pending the success of this grant, the Victorian branch will assist to organise in-person and online events in 2024/25.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ACBC WA continued its work advocating for the benefits of the bilateral economic relationship through its annual calendar of events and, in the first half of 2023, seeking to capitalise upon the opportunities to reconnect following China's border easing.

A highlight of the year was the return to China of the Premier of Western Australia's China-WA Strategic Dialogue to China for its 5th iteration in April 2023. More than 20 chairpersons and senior executives travelled from all over China to Beijing to take part in the candid and direct dialogue with the Premier.

In addition to the Dialogue in Beijing, the WA Branch met with important stakeholders in China including Australian diplomatic posts in Shanghai, Chengdu, and Beijing, CCPIT/CCOIC and Foreign Affairs Offices in Zhejiang, Chengdu, and Nanjing, as well as Chinese businesses with interests in Australia to advocate for WA and its member organisations.

The opening of borders also afforded WA Branch the opportunity to meet with inbound delegations from Nanjing, Chengdu, Zhejiang, and Sichuan. In particular, we organised a Welcome Reception at the Chinese Consulate-General in Perth for the Sichuan Party Secretary and delegation.

In other activities, the WA Branch hosted the "Australia-China Decarbonisation Roundtable: Steel, Hydrogen and Battery Minerals", with ANU. The hybrid event, held with the support of the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations and part of the ACBC's Green Channel, explored opportunities for collaboration in decarbonisation between Australia and China.

An important thought leadership piece commissioned and released was the report "Benefits of WA's Trade and Economic Relationship with China". Using advanced economic modelling, the report estimates WA's trade with China increased disposable income by around \$7,900 per household in the 2020/21 financial year, in addition to placing downward pressure on inflation and unemployment.

The WA Branch was pleased to welcome Michael Feakes on board as Branch General Manager in February 2023. The WA Branch thanks Branch President James Clarke for his time and efforts in managing the transition from the last AGM to Michael's appointment.



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

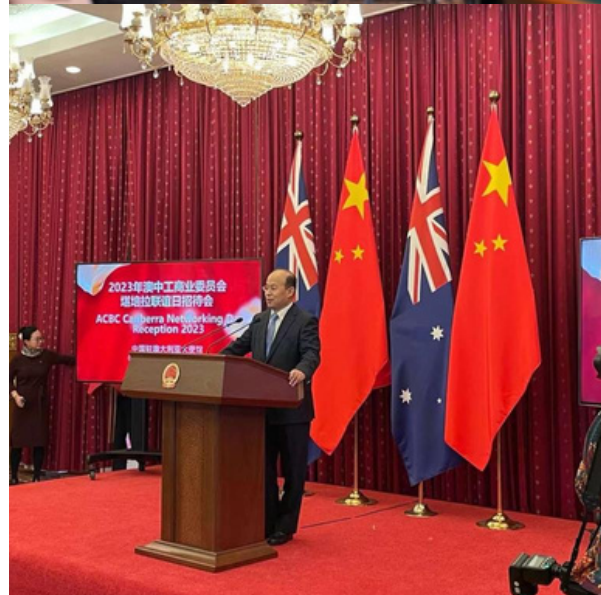
In 2023, ACBC ACT continued to focus on promoting the ACT's international education opportunities and green economy policies, while also strengthening the sister city relationship between Canberra and Beijing. These efforts remain central to our mission of connecting the Australia-China business community.

Promotion of International Education Exports: Recognising the vital role of international education exports for the ACT and the surrounding region, we actively facilitated partnerships and collaborations in the education sector. In 2023, we organised dedicated events, uniting stakeholders, educators, and representatives from both countries. These gatherings provided a platform for sharing expertise and best practices in international education, bolstering the growth of educational exports.

Green Economy Future: In line with the ACT's progressive stance on green economy policies, we actively engaged in promoting sustainable practices. Our 2023 activities included site visits to Australia's first Hydrogen Refuelling Station and policy briefings with the ACT Chief Minister. These initiatives underscore our commitment to a sustainable future and the opportunity for collaboration with China on climate change.

Sister City Relationship - Canberra and Beijing: Our dedication to strengthening the sister city relationship between Canberra and Beijing remained steadfast. At our Lunar New Year Dinner, attended by the Australia-China business community, Deputy Head of Mission Minister Li emphasised the business community's role in post-COVID economic recovery. He highlighted the mutually beneficial nature of the Australia-China relationship, reinforcing the significance of our mission.

In summary, 2023 was marked by significant progress for the ACBC ACT Branch. We actively promoted international education exports, advanced green economy initiatives, and enhanced the bonds between Canberra and Beijing, all in pursuit of our mission to connect the Australia-China business community.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Throughout 2022/23 the ACBC SA has been committed to supporting government and business to reengage with their counterparts in China by identifying opportunities for economic reengagement stemming from our common challenges and complimentary capabilities.

In late 2022, ACBC SA and the CCCA commemorated the 50th Anniversary of Australia-PRC Diplomatic Relations with a strategic roundtable to frame future opportunity for closer cooperation. Participants of the industry led roundtable included those from business, industry, and government. The roundtable explored joint opportunities emanating from South Australia and Shandong's common imperative towards net-zero industrial transformation.

Since then, supporting the great work of the ACBC Green Channel led by Anthony Coles, the ACBC and the CCCA in SA have brought together Australian and Chinese businesses, particularly those in our sister state of Shandong, to work together towards a common goal to achieve a net zero carbon future.

This led to the signing of an historic agreement between the ACBC in SA and CCCA in SA to work collaboratively around trade and investment across a range of industries, with the immediate priorities being:

1. Green energy infrastructure construction, mining and critical resources, and net-zero industrial transformation;
2. International students and tourism;
3. Agribusiness, including farming and the wine industry.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, ACBC SA has also been working with South Australian government and Chinese Consulate in South Australia to support the efforts to resolve the current wine and wider agricultural trade barriers, which have disproportionately affected South Australian businesses. Having recently accompanied the Premier of South Australia leading largest in-bound business mission to China since the COVID-19 pandemic, we are delighted to see substantial progress which augurs well for a refreshed trade and investment landscape for South Australian businesses with China in 2024.

It is with a very heavy heart that the ACBC SA pays tribute to the untimely and tragic passing of a valued executive member of our committee, Leonie McKeon. Leonie actively served as a member of our committee since 2018 and dedicated her life to bridging gaps in cultural understanding across the business community by educating and empowering people to feel confident when negotiating in the Chinese business environment. Her contributions to the ACBC and the wider community will be fondly remembered.



NORTHERN TERRITORY

ACBC NT has had a dynamic year marked by significant events and strategic initiatives that have strengthened our ties with China and promoted bilateral trade and cultural understanding.

We hosted four major events, including a hybrid meeting featuring Ambassador Graham Fletcher's update on China, which was well-attended by the Northern Territory government's international engagement team and local DFAT representatives. Two networking events at the Hilton Darwin brought together business leaders from across Darwin, fostering connections and dialogue.

The Dragon Boat Festival, hosted by the Darwin City Council, was a highlight of our cultural engagement, where ACBC NT played a pivotal role in the organising committee. The festival's business expo was an excellent platform for networking and showcasing opportunities.

Our signature event, the ACBC and Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Northern Territory, Australia (CCCNTA) Chinese New Year celebration at Sky City Casino, was a resounding success with over 100 guests, including Chief Minister Natasha Fyles. This event underscored the festive spirit and strong community ties within the Northern Territory.

A landmark MOU was signed with the visiting Qingdao delegation, paving the way for enhanced cooperation between the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Qingdao Sub-council and ACBC NT. This agreement is a testament to our commitment to fostering trade and investment ties.

There has been a notable increase in interest from the Northern Territory government in tourism and education, with a particular focus on attracting Chinese tourists and international students. ACBC NT has been instrumental in providing strategic support to tap into these markets effectively.

In a significant cultural milestone, ACBC NT supported the Chinese Friendship Society Northern Territory in establishing the Chinese Cultural Centre in Darwin. This initiative celebrates the rich history of Chinese migration to Darwin and serves as a beacon of our cultural heritage.



BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Following, is a listing of our branch executive committees immediately following the 2022 branch annual general meetings:

VIC Executive Committee

Office	First Name	Last Name	Member organisation
President and Director	Matthew	Schofield	SW Accountants & Advisors
Vice President	Liming	Huang	Corris Chambers Westgarth
Vice President	Tom	Parker	New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
Vice President	Rhys	Roberts	Roberts Gray Lawyers
Vice President	George	Yeung	Harbour Guidance Pty Ltd
Vice President	Dr. Celina	Yu	Global Business College of Australia
Treasurer	Ying	Hou	KPMG
Member	Dr. Mona	Chung	Cross Culture International
Member	Andrew	Deszcz	King & Wood Mallesons
Member	Grace (Xinyu)	Ji	PWC
Member	Lawrence	Lam	
Member	Jene	Liu	
Member	Amanda	Mao	
Member	Vera	Ou-Yang	Deloitte
Member	Professor Charles	Qin OAM	Chin Communications
Member	Theo	Sakell	Pitcher Partners
Member	Mary	Studdert	Studdert Legal & Advisory
Member	Dr. Susan	Su	Melbourne Airport
Member	Professor On Kit	Tam	RMIT University
Member	Guy	Thompson	ANZ
Member	Mary	Wang	RSM
Member	John	Warmbrunn	ECO Pharmaceuticals
Member	Isabel	Zhang	Bastion Insights

ExCo Retirees October 2022:Damian Tkalec

Professor On Kit Tam retired as a Vice President and remained on ExCo



NSW Executive Committee

Office	First Name	Last Name	Member organisation
President	Helen	Zhi Dent	KPMG
Advisor	Dr Jim	Harrowell AO	Hunt & Hunt Lawyers
Vice President and Treasurer	Tim	Hogan-Doran	SW Accountants & Advisors
Vice President	Vivienne	Yu	
Member	Connie	Chen	Colin Biggers and Paisley
Member	David	Ingram	Bank of China
Member	Jeff	Li	
Member	Jessie	Liu	ANZ
Member	Belle	Lou	Eakin McCaffery Cox Lawyers
Member	Tim	Regan	The George Institute for Global Health
Member	Mary	Tse	Homart Pharmaceuticals
Member	Steve	Zabeti	
Member	Qi	Zhang	Baxter IP

QLD Executive Committee

Office	First Name	Last Name	Member organisation
President	Stephen	Abbott	KPMG
Vice-President	Michael	Choi	Mercatus International Group
Treasurer	Johanna	Roche	Johanna Roche & Associates
Member	Laura	Chen	Lumen Capital Solutions
Member	Mark	Couchman	ANZ
Member	Brian	Healey	K&L Gates
Director	Carl	Hinze	Holding Redlich
Member	Ben	James	Brisbane Airport Corporation
Member	Miriam	Kent	Brisbane EDA
Member	Michael	Lai	The Star Entertainment Group
Member	Matthew	Macdonald	Morgans Financial
Member	Brodie	Paul	Anthony Paul Pty Ltd
Member	Bert	Wu	KPMG
Ex-Officio	Toni	Brownie	
Ex-Officio	Melissa	O'Rourke	
Ex-Officio	David	Wise	

ExCo Retirees: David Lyons

WA Executive Committee

Office	First Name	Last Name	Member organisation
President and Director	James	Clarke	James Clarke & Associates
Treasurer and Vice President	Xiaowen	Shi	RSM
Vice President	Lili	Pen	MinterEllison
Member	Jane	Caforio	Austrade
Member	Charles	Paraka	Australian Niugini Services
Member	Yong	Zhang	Baosteel Resources Australia
Member	Chen	Zeng	CITIC Pacific Mining
Member	Rob	Newton	CITIC Pacific Mining
Member	Juan	Lu	Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation
Member	Sally	Dawkins	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Member	Joan	Lim	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Member	I-Lyn	Loo	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Member	David	Izzard	Engentus
Member	John	Li	Ernst & Young
Member	Julie	Song	Fortescue Metals Group
Member	Peter	Chong	KPMG
Member	Camille	Chen	Legend Media Group
Member	Adam	Handley	MinterEllison
Member	Kelly	Smith	Murdoch University
Member	Oscar	Fong	Overtures:Co
Member	Noelene	Murray	Perdaman Global Services
Member	Tony (Sijun)	Cheng	Sinosteel Midwest Corporation
Member	Kevin	Zhang	3 Oceans
Member	Maree	Arnason	
Member	David	Cullen	
Member	Pearl	Chua	
Member	Tracey	Lim	



ACT Executive Committee

Office	First Name	Last Name	Member organisation
President and Director	Jenny	Chen	St George/Westpac Bank
Vice President	Charles	Zhan	Moulis Legal
Vice President	Angela	Lehmann	The Lygon Group
Treasurer	Harry	Hoang	Tailored Accountants
Member	Eveline	Kuang	King & Wood Mallesons
Member	Brian	Pontifex	Rio Tinto
Member	Kimberly	Gu	Nexia Canberra
Member	Sung	Lee	PwC
Member	Kent	Peters	Canberra Grammar School
Member	Dane	Richmond	Austrade
Member	Tracy	Cui	ACT Government
Member	Jane	Golley	Australian National University
Member	Chris	Gartner	University of Canberra
Intern	Gavin	Gao	Isentia
Intern	Elsa	Zhang	
Intern	Krystal	Fang	
Intern	Meg	Watkins	



SA Executive Committee

Office	First Name	Last Name	Member organisation
President	Sean	Keenihan	Norman Waterhouse
Vice President	Anthony	Coles	GreenGold Venture
Vice President	Jing	Li	JOID Consulting
Treasurer	Jim	Gouskos	Pitcher Partners
Strategic Advisor	Kane	Robson	
Strategic Advisor	Angela (Xun)	Wang	
Member	Rachel	Leach	ANZ
Member	Gary	Metcalf	Metcalf Group SA
Member	Tony	Zheng	University of Adelaide
Member	Jing	Cao	Chinese Language and Cultural Advice
Member	Leonie	McKeon	Sole trader/China Education Strategist

NT Executive Committee

Office	First Name	Last Name	Member organisation
President	James	Ashbridge	
Vice President	Joseph	Aladin	Nexia Edwards Marshall
Treasurer	Richard	Ting	Darwin City Hotel
Member	Sandra	Lady	



Our Sponsors and Partners

We understand the value that working in partnership delivers and believe a broad range of partnerships across the breadth of the Australia China relationship are essential to achieving our vision and delivering on our purpose.

We rely on our sponsors and partners for the support and success of our programs. Our sponsors and partners provide funds and in-kind goods and services which we use to either raise funds or invest into our programs and infrastructure. Thank you to all national sponsors ANZ, Rio Tinto and MA Financial for their support during the year and to HSBC Australia that joined in May 2023.



RioTinto



Following is a listing of our national and branch sponsors and partners in FY23:

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QLD	ERNST & YOUNG
QLD	GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
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QLD	TIQ
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WA	CITIC PACIFIC MINING MANAGEMENT PTY LTD
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ACT	THE ASIAN AUSTRALIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (AALA)
ACT	HYATT HOTEL
ACT	DOMA GROUP
NT	NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT



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Email national@acbc.com.au.

Web www.acbc.com.au