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Annual Review

AUSTRALIA CHINA
BUSINESS COUNCIL



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

Knowledge. Networks. Advocacy.

ACBC Annual Review

2021



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

ACBC Annual Review 2021

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*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of
the lands on which we work and live, and pay our
respects to Elders, past, present and future.*



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澳大利亚中国工商业委员会

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Our Valued Supporters



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. For nearly 5 decades we have provided unmatched information, networking, events and advocacy for the benefit of our members.

At a time of significant turbulence in the business world and in our political relationship with China, we remain determined to help our members develop nuanced understandings of the changing environment, inform wider debate, 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 in every state and territory in Australia, representing around 500 companies of all shapes and sizes, 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.

Message from the President

DAVID OLSSON

The past year has been one of extraordinary challenges for members, the Australia-China business community, and the nation as a whole.

I am especially mindful of the continuing impact of the coronavirus pandemic and trade disruptions with China. For many, it has been a bitter reality: painful, costly, still unresolved. For most, it has been a period characterised by on-going uncertainty and a wake-up call that many of the assumptions that have underpinned our economic and business engagement with China need to be re-visited.

Our relationship with China is being recalibrated. It's not entirely clear what the future relationship will look like, nor when we will get there.

ACBC remains firm in its commitment to trade and investment with China – but we are a clear-eyed in understanding the risks of dealing with today's China and the factors which have driven the government's management of the bilateral relationship.

In this report I will address our responses to changes in the China relationship, membership, and the steps taken to engage and support members. I'll also offer some thoughts on our future direction.

Responding to a changed environment

As a national, member-based organisation, ACBC has been severely affected by the challenging external environment.

Lockdowns prevented all but a few networking and in-person events. Closed borders stopped all in-bound and outbound business delegations. And on-going trade tensions impacted the capacity of many members to attend and support events.



The board and branch executive teams have met regularly over the year to assess the situation and gauge our responses. We have focussed on three objectives:

1. maintaining interaction and communication with our members;
2. ensuring that we continue with our advocacy on behalf of our members;
3. right-sizing our operating platform in a way that allows us to rebound when circumstances allow.

The result is that we now have a refreshed governance and operational structure (our National Leadership Group) that reflects the realities of a challenging external environment. It creates operational efficiencies while at the same time allowing branches to remain in close contact with members and be ready to return to in-person events as soon as conditions allow.

Despite a fall in membership numbers and event revenues, and challenges in renewing corporate sponsors, the organisation remains in a sound financial position.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have employed new financial metrics to ensure member funds are deployed judiciously, while continuing to provide the right level of service to our members.

Our vision reaffirmed

Our vision to be Australia's most influential member-based organisation focussed on the Australia China business relationship has been reaffirmed and validated by the feedback of members and stakeholders.

Our purpose remains clear. At a time of significant turbulence in the business world and in our political relationship with China, we remain determined to help our members develop nuanced understandings of the changing environment, inform wider debate, and provide a platform for ongoing engagement, networking, and advocacy.

As a business organisation, ACBC has a clear role to play in shedding light on the ways in which Australian and Chinese firms can work together to solve some of the big problems we face globally.

Indeed, at our signature event, Canberra Networking Day in July 2021, senior members of both the government and the opposition were united in their view that ACBC is playing a crucial role. Political leaders encouraged ACBC to continue playing an important role in the shaping of Australia's business engagement with China.

Knowledge, Networks and Advocacy

Three pillars have guided our focus over the last year.

The first pillar is **knowledge**. The demand for information, insight and expertise has been almost insatiable. As you will read elsewhere in this report, we have delivered literally hundreds of events around the network, some delivered nationally, some at branch level, but all involving speakers of the highest calibre and focussed on helping our members to develop more nuanced understandings of the evolving business landscape, and solutions to new and emerging issues.

Our second pillar is the support we provide to maintain and build the personal, business, and institutional **networks and connections** that underpin the bilateral relationship.

Our industry working groups, sub-committees and roundtable sessions foster important personal relationships; our national industry summits and digital bootcamps connect people and businesses across borders; and our branch and national events connect members with a shared interest in the China relationship.

Our third pillar, **advocacy** on behalf of members, has been a particular focus over the year.

We have issued reports on topics such as the reopening of borders to international tourism and education, we have made submissions to parliament in relation to changes to investment and trade policies, we have sought to present a balanced view of the economic relationship in our press engagements, and through our industry round tables we have sparked dialogues and advanced solutions to the challenges our members face.



More partnerships, more collaboration

We cannot do everything ourselves. We need the support of partners and sponsors, and we need to collaborate to extend our voice and influence.

We are indeed grateful for all our national and branch sponsors – named elsewhere in this report – for the generosity of their support.

Beyond our financial sponsors, we have actively sought to build and strengthen relationships with all key stakeholders.

Our relationship with the government is especially important. We are a non-governmental, non-aligned organisation, but as the largest and most representative business council focussed on the Australia China business and economic relationship, we have a responsibility to reflect as accurately as we can the views of our members on the business developments affecting our bilateral relationship. The government wants to hear our views and is keen to understand what our members are saying on the issues of the day.

We have excellent access to Australia's political and diplomatic leaders allowing us to lobby and share our thoughts on business and other policy initiatives in private meetings or industry roundtables. During the year, members also received regular briefings from the Hon. Simon Birmingham and the Hon. Dan Tehan (as the then, and now current, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment) and H.E. Graham Fletcher (Australia's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China).

Similarly, the relationship we enjoy with the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) has gone from strength to strength. We are fortunate in being able to call upon, and work with, Austrade's senior leaders and sector-based teams on many of our major programs and events.

The National Foundation for Australia China Relations has provided significant support and has been critical to the success of our national industry summits and digital bootcamps, enabling us to explore new areas of economic activity that benefits both countries. We look forward to building on this relationship in 2022.

At an institutional level, our relationship with AustChams across Greater China has deepened and we regularly host joint events and activities. We expect that there will be more opportunities to collaborate in the year ahead.

Relationship with Chinese Embassy

We enjoy a good working relationship with China's recently departed Ambassador to Australia, H.E. Cheng Jingye, and his colleagues in the Chinese Embassy in Canberra and Consulates-General around Australia. We look forward to working closely with the new Ambassador when he arrives in Australia.

We may not always agree on issues, but I believe that our engagements provide an opportunity for both sides to listen to concerns and understand the issues that affect trade and business between our nations.

Our membership

Our teams in every state and territory have focussed on making sure we keep members at the core of our activities, and that our value proposition remains strong.

We have seen some attrition. Over the year, our membership base fell from 670 to around 470 members. This is a concern. The changed external environment is clearly a major contributor, but we continue to work hard to refine our offerings and ensure that ACBC membership remains a compelling proposition.

Our annual member survey in late 2020 provided guidance on how members perceive our value proposition, which we are responding to. We will be launching a further survey in early 2022.

Despite a fall in member numbers, our reach has continued to grow. We now have over 20,000 people with whom we are in regular contact through our national and branch newsletters and our social media platform.

A team effort

The last year has not been easy. I thank Vice President Adam Handley, Treasurer Keith Miranda, fellow board members, the chairs of our national committees and our branch CEOs and heads, and the chairs of the industry working groups, all of whom have worked tirelessly to guide the organisation through a most difficult year.

I'd particularly like to acknowledge the efforts of Michael Clifton who stepped up to fill the role of interim National CEO for 6 months, and more recently Virginia Birrell who has taken on the role of National Executive Officer to support our new operational structure.

A special shout out is deserved for our branch CEOs and heads and their teams, and our national accounts and IT staff. It's been a herculean task to manage the finances and the pivot to a digital platform while at the same time maintaining the dialogue with members. All have been working at home for long periods and in difficult circumstances. I could not be prouder of, and more thankful for, their efforts.

Looking forward

For our members, managing the consequences of the pandemic and emerging geo-political risk won't be easy. Businesses will need to prepare for ongoing uncertainty, inevitable disruption, and further change.

For nearly 5 decades ACBC has supported Australian businesses through the ups and downs of the bilateral relationship. We have provided unmatched information, networking, events, and advocacy to, and for the benefit of, our members.

That's why we are doubling down with our efforts right now.

Our ambition is to bring Australian and Chinese businesses together to create a vibrant future for all.

We don't deny the challenges ahead, but we proceed with confidence:

- Confidence that springs from the depth and breadth of relationships that have been built up over the decades of people-to-people and business relationships, university collaborations, student exchanges and dialogues that form the bedrock of bilateral relations.
- Confidence in our ability to respond to the new realities we are facing. As a nation, we have faced challenges in the past and shown a remarkable ability to rebound and adapt. We can do this again.

Finally, let me thank you, our members, for your support during the past year. We look forward to supporting you in the year ahead.

David Olsson
National President and Chairman
Australia China Business Council

Governance Overview

THE NATIONAL BOARD

ACBC is an Australian public company limited by guarantee. Its corporate governance framework and practices are governed by its Constitution and administered through a board of directors.

The national board makes decisions on the overall strategy, policy and direction of the organisation. Local branch committees manage the day-to-day operations of each state or territory branch, with a nominated representative from each branch appointed to the national board.

The national board consists, currently, of 15 members, comprising elected national office bearers (President, Vice President and Treasurer), eight branch representatives, and four additional directors appointed by the board. In addition, there are positions (currently not filled) for the immediate past president and a China-based director.

The Australian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China and the Chief Executive Officer of Austrade are ex-officio (non-voting) members of the board.

There is a proposal for consideration at the upcoming Annual General Meeting to increase the number of appointed directors to six, to allow the board to gain access to a wider range of experience and skills.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

as of 30 October 2021

ELECTED MEMBERS

David Olsson (President)

Adam Handley (Vice President)

Keith Miranda (Treasurer)

BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

Jenny Chen (Australian Capital Territory)

Michael Clifton (New South Wales)

Daryl Guppy (Northern Territory)

Michael Wadley (Queensland)

Karyn Kent (South Australia)

Erin Buttermore (Tasmania)

Matthew Schofield (Victoria)

James Clarke (Western Australia)

BOARD APPOINTED MEMBERS

Sean Keenihan

Laura Mattiazzi

Jingmin Qian

Laurie Smith

RETIRED BOARD MEMBERS

Over the course of the year, there have been changes to the composition of the board, and we are grateful to the following directors who have contributed during the period since 1 July 2020 to date:

ELECTED MEMBERS

Tim Hogan-Doran (Treasurer)

Sean Keenihan (Vice President)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Hon. John Brumby AO

BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

Sung Lee (Australian Capital Territory)

James Young (South Australia)

Brett Charlton (Tasmania)

Michael Chilvers (Tasmania)

Ian Locke (Tasmania)

BOARD APPOINTED MEMBERS

Ben Foscett

Joanne Farrell

ACBC NATIONAL BOARD

Current board members as of 30 October 2021



David Olsson
National President and
Chairman



Adam Handley
Vice President



Keith Miranda
National Treasurer



Jenny Chen
ACT Branch
Representative



Michael Clifton
NSW Branch
Representative



Daryl Guppy
NT Branch
Representative



Michael Wadley
QLD Branch
Representative



Karyn Kent
SA Branch
Representative



Erin Buttermore
TAS Branch
Representative



Matthew Schofield
VIC Branch
Representative



James Clarke
WA Branch
Representative



Sean Keenihan
Board Member



Laura Mattiazzi
Board Member



Jingmin Qian
Board Member



Laurie Smith
Board Member

CHAIRS OF BOARD COMMITTEES

Audit and Governance Committee - Adam Handley

Membership and Sponsorship Committee - Laurie Smith

Thought Leadership Committee - Michael Clifton

Finance Committee - Keith Miranda

Remuneration and Nominations Committee - Sean Keenihan

ACBC Operations

ACBC has adapted its operating structure over the course of the last year to reflect a significantly changed and challenging operating environment.

During the year, the board adopted new operating and governance principles to enhance financial and operational efficiencies, to encourage greater cost discipline and to support cash reserves to match the organisation's operating structure.

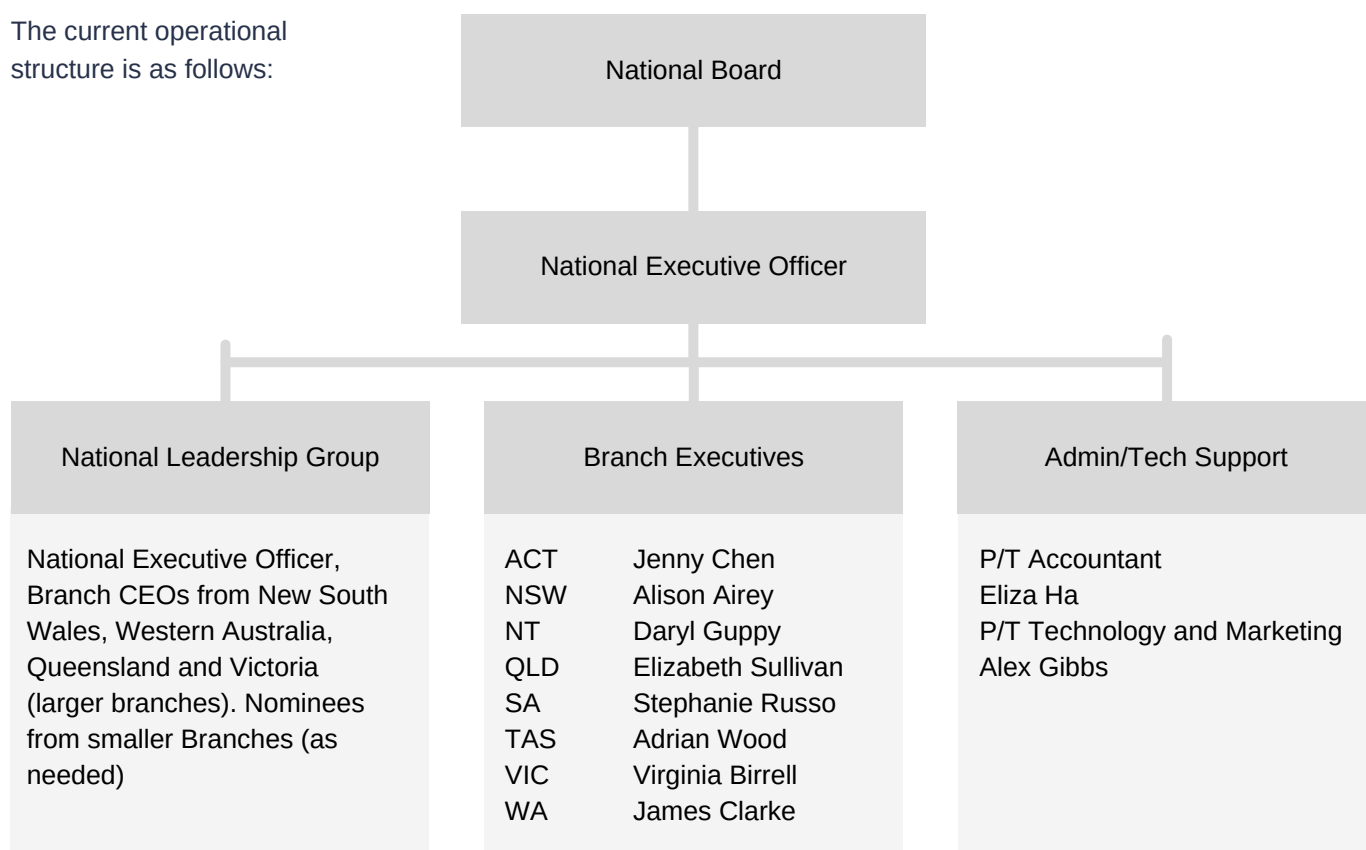
An important change was the decision of the board not to employ a full-time National CEO for the balance of FY22, and instead establish a new National Leadership

Group (NLG) structure to support cost-savings, remove duplication of resources and foster greater collaboration around its network.

We are delighted that Virginia Birrell, CEO of the Victorian branch, agreed to chair the NLG and national activities for the balance of the financial year. The board will re-assess the operational structure as the external environment becomes clearer.

A NEW STRUCTURE FOR NOW TIMES

The current operational structure is as follows:



Board & Executive Committees

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

NATIONAL BOARD

President and Chair, David Olsson, King & Wood Mallesons
Vice President, Adam Handley, MinterEllison
Treasurer, Keith Miranda, Citi Australia
Erin Buttermore, Strategy & Culture
Jenny Chen, St George Bank
James Clarke, James Clarke & Associates
Michael Clifton, MJC Asia Consulting
Daryl Guppy, Guppytraders
Sean Keenihan, Norman Waterhouse
Karyn Kent, StudyAdelaide
Laura Mattiazzi, Westpac
Jingmin Qian, Non-Executive Director
Matthew Schofield, SW Accountants & Advisors
Laurie Smith, Consultant
Michael Wadley, MinterEllison

ACT COMMITTEE

Jenny Chen (President), St George Bank
Charles Zhan (Vice President), Moulis Legal
Angela Lehmann (Treasurer), The Lygon Group
Eveline Kuang (Secretary), King & Wood Mallesons
Lawrence Pratchett, University of Canberra
Mike Ferguson, University of Canberra
Jane Golley, Australian National University
Stella Wei, Aspen Medical
Sung Lee, PwC
Harry Hoang, Tailored Accounts
Mellissa Lai, Minter Ellison
Andrew Stewart, Savills
Brian Pontifex, Rio Tinto
Kent Peters, Canberra Grammar School
Kimberly Gu, Nexia Canberra
Jacob Tomkins, Intern, Peking University
Maddy McDonald, Research Intern, ANU
Gavin Gao, Admin Intern, Region Media

NSW COMMITTEE

Michael Clifton (President), MJC Asia Consulting
Tim Hogan-Doran (Vice President), SW Accountants & Advisors

NSW COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

Jim Harrowell, (Adviser), Hunt & Hunt Lawyers
Tim Regan, (Treasurer and Vice President), The George Institute for Global Health
Helen Zhi Dent Partner (Vice-President), KPMG
Peter Cai, Lowy Institute
Steve Zabeti, Accru Asia
Jessie Liu, ANZ
David Ingram, Bank of China
Qi Zhang, Baxter IP
Connie Chen, Colin Biggers and Paisley
Belle Lou, Eakin McCaffery Cox Lawyers
Jeff Li, Pioneer Computers
Mary Tse, Homart Pharmaceuticals

NT COMMITTEE

Daryl Guppy (President), Guppytraders.com
Joseph Aladin (Vice President), Nexia Edwards Marshall NT
Gloria Chang (Vice President), Nidus Innovation and Enterprise
Richard Ting (Treasurer and National Board Rep), Darwin City Hotel
Justin Gill, Adobe Homes
Allan Woo, NT Airports Allan Woo

QLD COMMITTEE

Steve Abbott (President), KPMG
Michael Choi (Vice President)
Sheldon Brady (Vice President)
Johanna Roche (Treasurer)
Laura Chen Director, Lumen Capital Solutions
Bert Wu Director, KPMG
Nussara Smith
Brodie Paul, China Policy
David Lyons, DLA Piper Australia
Mark Couchman, ANZ
Ben James, Brisbane Airport Corporation
Brian Healey, K&L Gates
Matthew Macdonald, Morgans
Michael Lai, The Star Entertainment Group
Carl Hinze, Holding Redlich

QLD COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

Melissa O'Rourke Director, DFAT
Toni Brownie, Trade and Investment Queensland
David Wise, Austrade

SA COMMITTEE

Sean Keenihan (President), Norman Waterhouse Lawyers
James Young (Vice-President), Colliers International
Jim Gouskos (Treasurer), Pitcher Partners
Karyn Kent (National Board Rep), StudyAdelaide
Jing Li, JOID International Consulting
Song Guo, Australian Premium Wine Group
Marcus Lojszczyk, PwC
Ben Kirchner, City of Adelaide
Anthony Coles, H+Lab Australia
Lisa O'Donoghue, Alexandrina Council
Gary Metcalf, Metcalf Group
Leonie McKeon, China Education Strategist
Andrew Rogers, Andrew Rogers Industrial Design

TAS COMMITTEE

Erin Buttermore (President), Strategy & Culture
Brett Charlton, (Vice President), Agility Logistics
Quinten Villaneuva (Vice President), Qaptial In
Ian Locke (Treasurer), Ian Locke Consulting
Can Seng Ooi, Asia Institute/University of Tasmania
Beth Mathison, True South Seafood
Tim Ault, DFAT
Justin Hill, Page Seager
Dennis Zhang, Tastar
Jen Newman, RDA Tasmania Committee

VIC COMMITTEE

Andrew Deszcz, King & Wood Mallesons
Barry White, ProEx Developments
Celina Yu (Vice President), Global Business College of Australia
Charles Qin OAM, Chin Communications
Damian Tkalec, Travel Trade Partners
George Yeung, Branch Vice President, JeansWest
Grace Ji, PricewaterhouseCoopers
Guy Thompson, ANZ Bank
Isabel Zhang, Bastion
John Warmbrunn, Ego Pharmaceuticals
Ken Smith, ChinaSolutions
Laura Mattiazzi, Westpac
Liming Huang (Vice President), Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Mary Studdert, Studdert Legal and Advisory
Mary Wang, RSM
Matthew Schofield (President), SW Accountants & Advisors
Mona Chung, Cross Cultural International
On Kit Tam (Vice President), RMIT University
Rhys Roberts (Vice President), Roberts Gray Lawyers
Robin Chambers, Chambers & Co
Susan Su, Melbourne Airport
Theo Sakell, Pitcher Partners
Tom Parker (Vice President), NZTE
Vera Ou-Young, Deloitte
Ying Hou (Treasurer), KPMG

WA COMMITTEE

James Clarke (President), James Clarke & Associates

Lili Pan (Vice President), MinterEllison

Xiaowen Shi (Treasurer), RSM

Tracey Lim (CEO until 30th Sep 2021)

Tony (Sijun) Cheng, Sinosteel Midwest Corporation

Dr Dongyi Hua, VDM Group

David Morrison, Murdoch University

Yuanqing Xu, Baosteel Australia

Chen Zeng, CITIC Pacific Mining

Noelene Murray (Chair - Edu & Tourism Committee),

Perdaman Global Services

I-Lyn Loo (Chair - Food & Ag Committee), the
Department of Primary Industries and Regional
Development (DPIRD)

Alice Dawkins (Chair - Tech & Innovation Committee),
Lydekker

Adam Handley (Chair - Resources Committee),
MinterEllison

David Cullen (Chair - Energy Committee)

Camille Chen (Chair - Culture & Media Committee,
Legend Media Group

Philip Kirchlechner (Chair - Investment Committee), Iron
Ore Research

Maree Arnason (Chair - Honorary Awards Committee)

Jane Caforio, Austrade

Peter Chong, KPMG

Pearl Chua-Kyselicova

Eva Chye, PwC

Juan Lu, the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and
Innovation (DJTSI)

Allan Drake-Brockman, George Street Consulting

William Du, PwC

Robert Williamson. Red River Group

David Izzard, Segnut

John Li, Ernst & Young

Tony Monaghan, SMS Mining Services

Sarah Hooper, the Department of Foreign Affairs and
Trade (DFAT)

Phil Payne, StudyPerth

Walter Gomes, the Department of Jobs, Tourism,
Science and Innovation (DJTSI)

Julie Song, Fortescue Metals Group (FMG)

Suzanne Wang, ACYPI

Oscar Fong, Overtures:Co

Kevin Zhang, 3 Oceans

Angela Zhao, King & Wood Mallesons

Bing Zuo, Huawei

Communication and Engagement

WITH OUR MEMBERS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

OUR VOICE

Across our national branches, and through our wider network, we are working every day to elevate the voice of Australian firms and businesses and the Chinese-Australian diaspora and to highlight the role they play in the maintenance of a strong and productive economic relationship with China, and support them through challenging and uncertain times.

As a member-based organisation, our efforts are focussed on our engagement with our membership and our reputation as the most reliable and trusted source of information, insights and connections for those doing business with China.

Over the last year, we hosted over 300 events, ranging from national China Strategic Briefings and national industry forums, to local seminars and working group meetings, across a range of sectors, industries and themes, bringing together business, government decision makers and key stakeholders.

The implementation of our new digital strategy, and the increased use of our national and branch newsletters and social media, together with the establishment of new collaborative partnerships in Australia and China, has resulted in sophisticated, targeted and impactful digital communications that are effectively amplifying our reach and relevance. Regular engagement with the media is vital to getting our views to the wider public. Through interviews, press releases, submissions and reports, ACBC seeks to share its views.

100+
major events

200+
working group meetings

4
industry summits

4,000+
event attendees

15+
member briefings



Government Submissions

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH ADVOCACY

ADVOCACY

The closure of national borders and the disruption of supply chains caused by the pandemic, coupled with pessimism about the geopolitical landscape and its implications for trade and investment, have put many sectors, industries and businesses under significant pressure.

ACBC's advocacy priorities reflect this sentiment and reality.

Throughout the year, our industry working groups have led the way in convening meetings with members and relevant industry associations to assess the scale, nature and impact of disruptions.

Through ACBC's membership of bodies such as DFAT's COVID-19 industry response forum and our connections to federal, state and territory governments and trade agencies, we have crafted a unique role as a platform to provide timely and accurate information between our members and government around the rapidly changing environment. Where necessary, we have lobbied for policies to support or alleviate the external challenges facing our members.

Supporting these efforts, local branch working groups and committees and our executive teams have prepared submissions in response to government inquiries on key issues affecting the Australia-China relationship, and our President and others have appeared before several federal parliamentary inquiries to present ACBC's views on those issues.

Business advocacy and action to influence trade and investment policy is now firmly embedded as a strategic focus for ACBC. It can improve the competitive position of our exporters, provide clarity around investment opportunities, and support the re-opening of Australia's borders to tourism, education and business activity.



Papers and Policy Views

POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY

- Report with recommendations on Inbound Tourism from China presented to Minister for Trade, Investment and Tourism, July 2020
- Submission to the Minister for Trade concerning the need for a COVID-19 international travel passport, March 2021
- Reimagining the Visitor Economy Discussion Paper, June 2021

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

- Submission to Department of Treasury concerning the proposed reforms to the Foreign Investment Review framework, August 2020
- Submission to assist Department of Treasury's evaluation of the 2021 Foreign Investment Reforms August 2021

TRADE POLICY AND FACILITATION

- Submission to Department of Foreign Affairs with our views on ChAFTA 5 year implementation review, and areas for future focus, August 2020
- Submission Joint Parliamentary Inquiry concerning China's accession to CPTPP March 2021, and subsequent appearance before the committee
- Submission to Senate Parliamentary Inquiry on Funding for Foreign Policy Initiatives, March 2021, and subsequent appearance before the committee
- Submission to Austrade concerning Export Market Direct Grants (EMDG) for Market Diversification, May 2021

For copies of these and other reports, please visit the Member Only [Insights Centre on the website](#)



Branch Report - ACT

A MESSAGE FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

JENNY CHEN, BRANCH PRESIDENT

As I enter the second year as President of the ACT Branch, ACBC's role is becoming ever more relevant and important for businesses connected with the Australia-China business world. Timely and accurate information has become more critical as members seek to manage uncertainty, change, geopolitical volatilities, and the ongoing pandemic.

Throughout the year, ACBC ACT has focused on providing timely online webinars, organising networking opportunities and continuing to promote the long-term importance of language, cultural learning and exchange, and the power of education.

Growth for the branch springs naturally from Canberra's role as a hub for world-class education and research institutions, and as a destination for talented students, academics and other professionals from across Australia and the world. This billion-dollar education sector in turn supports the growth of a vibrant local economy, regional tourism, the property sector, and the broader business community.

Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to host in-person, on-line and hybrid events. Our traditional Chinese Lunar New Year Gala Dinner was a highlight receiving strong media coverage. The Deputy Head of Mission of the Chinese Embassy to Australia, Minister Wang Xining, and the Head of School, Canberra Grammar School, shared insightful and authentic views on the future of international education and the importance of people-to-people connections.

Our corporate member, Australian National University, contributed to the Australia-China Education Symposium hosted by ACBC NSW which was live-streamed around Australia and to China. Valuable experiences and insights were shared, including the perception of Australian education among Chinese students, and practical proposals around new ways to deliver education to Chinese students in the post-COVID era.

We also had the pleasure to host an online Chinese Language Competition supported by Canberra Grammar School and Beijing National Day School. Students were required to research their counterpart cities, complete an essay and to produce a video clip for the competition. The strong participation showed great understanding of culture, language and history exchanges at such young age.



BRANCH PRESIDENT REPORT CONT'D

Following the competition, we held an award ceremony during the Canberra Networking Day post event session, which was attended by ACT Government International Commissioner Brendan Smyth and the Chinese Embassy's Education Minister Zong Wa. We can't wait to welcome the winners from Beijing National Day School in our national capital when travel restrictions are lifted!

We have been lucky during this difficult time to have the continued energetic support of our Executive Committee. We have welcomed new members and developed a strong relationship with the local member base and are constantly looking for ways to enhance their experiences at ACBC, as the flagship commercial and culture interface between Australia and China. Their achievements and commitment during this difficult year have been exemplary.

KEY EVENTS

Feb 2021	Chinese New Year Dinner – Business in the Year of the OX
May	Story on Language Learning Supported by local member Canberra Grammar School and Region Media
June	Australia -China Education Symposium Contributed by branch corporate member ANU
July	Chinese Language Speaking Competition Support by Canberra Grammar School and Beijing National Day School. Award ceremony attended by Education Minister Zong Wa, Embassy of the PRC; ACT Government International Commissioner Brendan Smyth
August	Canberra Networking Day In person screening and networking event hosted by King & Wood Mallesons Canberra ACT Members Discussion Forum - Joined by Head of Economics Austrade, Cherelle Murphy; Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the PRC, Minister Wang Xining; Partner Foreign Investment, King & Wood Mallesons, Malcolm Brennan; moderated by ACT Branch President, Jenny Chen
September	Members lunch/fair well for Minister Counsellor Huang Rengang, hosted by corporate member Raku Dining



Branch Report - NSW

A MESSAGE FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

MICHAEL CLIFTON, BRANCH PRESIDENT

In another uncertain year amid the global pandemic, ACBC NSW, like many of our members, drew on adaptability and resilience as we continued to provide knowledge, networks and advocacy for the Australia-China business community.

Through in-person, online and hybrid events, ACBC NSW sought to continue supporting members through a variety of formats. We held over 40 events and hosted 1600+ guests through this most challenging of years.

Our 2021 Chinese New Year Dinner was a highlight. It marked our first and much-anticipated in-person event after the first national lockdown (little were we to know that NSW would eventually return to lockdown). The Grand Hall at the Fullerton Hotel provided an elegant setting for CNY and a memorable celebration was capped by the announcement of our official sponsorship partnership with Bentley Motors.

In celebrating the achievements and inspirational stories of women, we held ACBC NSW's second International Women's Day luncheon. Guest speakers Lynn Yeh (Founder and CEO of Homart Pharmaceuticals), Helen Zhi Dent (Partner at KPMG) and Jane McNally (CEO of Camilla) shared their journeys and individual efforts in lifting the spirits of women during another challenging year.

Our last live in-person event in 2021 was the very successful Australia-China Education Symposium with 200+ attendees. The insights from the Symposium were shared with governments as they shaped plans for the safe return of international students.

Sydney's second COVID-19 lockdown spurred ACBC NSW to double down on expanding our online library of insights, webinars and virtual roundtables. In addition to communicating the latest COVID-19 business updates and government support, we sought to draw on the deep expertise of our member networks, offering insights to members, with an emphasis on digital marketing.

With the nation finally seeing the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, ACBC NSW looks forward to helping our members engage with both the opportunities and the challenges of the China market. Notwithstanding tensions in the bilateral relationship, the ACBC remains firm in our belief that China will be a critical partner in Australia's post-pandemic economic recovery.



Events in 2020-21

NSW BRANCH

KEY EVENTS

October 2020	Online Marketing Strategies for 11.11 Global Shopping Festival
November	China 2.0 – Change and how to leverage the new opportunities
December	ACBC NSW's Christmas Gala Online
February 2021	ACBC NSW Chinese New Year Dinner
March	ACBC International Women's Day
April	Biden Administration Economic Priorities and Objectives
May	Chinese language event - Government Grants
June	Australia-China Education Symposium
July	ACBC NSW Health & Ageing: Engagement with China Post-COVID
August	ACBC NSW Webinar: The Changing Education Landscape in China
September	Digital Marketing in Education – Emerging Trends in China
October	Business Roundtable – Managing a Business through challenging times



Branch Report - NT

A MESSAGE FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

DARRYL GUPPY, BRANCH PRESIDENT

COVID-19 lockdowns severely curtailed China engagement in 2021. ACBC NT hosted a well attended blockchain seminar and connected members to a number of other excellent webinars run by several other branches and continued to deliver value to members. We also increased engagement with the Confucius Institute.

Unfortunately, the Northern Territory Government's engagement with China continued to decline as the defence focus intensified. The last full-scale Northern Territory engagement with China was the Reaching South forum in Shenzhen at the end of 2019. We continue to provide Ministerial briefings.

The increased anti-China media environment in 2021 discouraged public support for further China engagement and this has impacted on business attitudes and engagement. However, the NT branch has continued with media engagement to promote China connections and explain the significance of Chinese investment in the Northern Territory.

Our fortnightly newsletter continued for its 13th year, updating members on China issues. Media engagement has also included featuring the Northern Territory with China's CGTN, and Northern Territory news media.

ACBC NT has increased co-operation with Australia China Friendship Society, co-hosting the Moon festival dinner and with China Chamber of Commerce, NT, co-hosting the Spring Festival dinner.

The branch has also led ACBC's involvement with the Silk Road Chambers of International Commerce (SRCIC) and the Silk Road Business Council (SRBC) which provide ACBC with a channel to access information about the Belt & Road Initiative, and an opportunity to discuss project opportunities and policy direction. The SRCIC continues to evolve as a significant player in the B&R constellation of organisations and supports ACBC's aim of providing the latest and most relevant information about this important initiative to members.

ACBC NT has made strong national contributions, co-drafting several major policy submissions and continued to provide up-to-date China analysis to members with the fortnightly newsletter.

Like all ACBC branches, we look forward to the end of the pandemic so we can resume reaching out to China to get the NT noticed in the Chinese business and investment community.



Branch Report - Queensland

A MESSAGE FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

STEPHEN ABBOTT, BRANCH PRESIDENT

The COVID-19 pandemic and the state of bilateral relations continue to disrupt the way we do business. Despite these challenges, ACBC QLD and our members remain committed to long-term engagement with China.

ACBC QLD has delivered a range of events in 2021. We acknowledge the flexibility of our members and partners in adjusting to changing business conditions, including during COVID-19 related lockdowns and for their commitment in uncertain times.

This year we welcomed Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) again as ACBC QLD's 2021 Strategic partner.

I thank our branch sponsors Herbert Smith Freehills, Port of Brisbane, Michael Hill, and the Sofitel Brisbane Central for their generous support throughout 2021.

ACBC QLD's Education and Tourism Industry Working Groups continued to advocate strongly for the safe return of international students and tourists, while highlighting the importance of China to these sectors.

All our seven working groups have been busy, organising events.

ACBC QLD partnered with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to organise a briefing with the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations. Other yearly highlights include a site visit to the Port of Brisbane; a Boardroom lunch with the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries; the Plant Based Protein Markets in Asia Seminar, and the Wealth Management Strategies Seminar.

Our Annual Gala Chinese New Year dinner was an outstanding success, attended by over 270 guests. VIPs included: HE the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland; The Hon Cameron Dick MP, Treasurer and Minister for Investment; The Rt Hon, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Councillor Adrian Schinnerer; and Cr Rick Baberowski, Deputy Mayor, Sunshine Coast City Council.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge and thank both new and renewing members for their continued support this year. They have displayed great resilience during what has been a difficult year, and in partnership with ACBC QLD, remain committed to China.



Events in 2020-21

QLD BRANCH

KEY EVENTS

November 2020	Through the Unclear Crystal Ball: The 2021 Journey Ahead with China
December	SQ Export Hub China
February 2021	ACBC QLD Chinese New Year Annual Gala Dinner
March	Australian Agricultural Exports in China Report Presentation Queensland Business Migration Update: Recent Trends and Opportunities
April	China Dialogue with TIQ and Holding Redlich Australia and Queensland Property Market Update Tourism Recovery: Attracting the Domestic Chinese Market
May	Exclusive Port of Brisbane Site Visit and Briefing Wealth Management Strategies (delivered in Mandarin)
June	In Conversation with the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations Plant Based Protein Markets in Asia
August	Education Strategies for China 2021 and Beyond
September	Negotiating Contracts in Uncertain Times – Opportunities and Pitfalls
October	Food & Agribusiness Update from Minister Furner: Key Insights into Engagement with China Member Networking & China Insights Speakers: Australian Consul-General to Chengdu, and TIQ Senior Trade & Investment Commissioner, China



Branch Report - South Australia

A MESSAGE FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

SEAN KEENIHAN, BRANCH PRESIDENT

2021 has undoubtedly been a difficult year for the bilateral relationship between Australia and China. Our South Australian branch members have been deeply impacted by the resulting challenges, which were compounded by COVID-19. Trade barriers including the wine tariff have disproportionately affected our SA members. Additionally, COVID-19 border restrictions have limited the impact of Chinese international tourists, business migrants, and international students.

However, our branch and our members remain committed to the long-term opportunity for international business between Australia and China. Despite the challenges China continues to be South Australia's largest export market, and continues to be a fundamental driver of the State's economy.

In 2021 ACBC SA focussed on its member advocacy role. SA Branch representatives conducted regular meetings with members of South Australian State and Federal Government Departments, business and consular officials to advocate on behalf of our members' interests. We have also worked with the national office and our fellow branches to cross-promote the virtual online series. We also held smaller in-person events focussed on understanding the developments in the bilateral relationship and cutting through the sometimes overwhelming volume of media commentary and identifying areas of opportunity for our members to continue engaging with their Chinese counterparts.

As the borders and the economy begin to reopen, we look forward to reverting back to our larger in-person educational and networking events in 2022, including planned business migration connection activities in the early stages of the new calendar year.

KEY EVENTS

January	Roundtable briefing to members from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
February	Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration at Penfolds Magill Estate
May	Members discussion - developments in bilateral relationship and outlook for Australia and South Australia with China.
June	Members discussion - Current Situation and Plan for 2021/22



Branch Report - Tasmania

A MESSAGE FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

ERIN BUTTERMORE, BRANCH PRESIDENT

It has been a year of immense ups and downs for ACBC's Tasmania Branch.

At our 2020 Branch AGM, Michael Chilvers was elected President and we welcomed several new members to the Board.

Like elsewhere, the pandemic limited our membership activities throughout 2020. Activities resumed with a major members' lunch held in Launceston on 20 November 2020, themed Reimagining Tasmania. The event featured online presentations by Ambassador Graham Fletcher from Beijing, and ACBC National President David Olsson from Hong Kong. Tasmanian Minister for State Growth Michael Ferguson and branch patron Sir Guy Green delivered speeches in person. The event was well attended by members from around the state.

The ACBC TAS farewelled Executive Officer Ann Reimer and welcomed Adrian Wood as her replacement at the beginning of 2021. Regional Development Australia - Tasmania, through Jen Newman, has continued to provide some additional administration support which is greatly valued.

We record with much sadness the death of President Michael Chilvers in a climbing accident in March. Treasurer Ian Locke ably led the branch until my appointment as President in August. I am aware that in the interim we received considerable support and understanding from our colleagues Australia-wide. This was very much appreciated during a difficult time for ACBC Tasmania.

I am delighted to report that I have taken over a branch in good shape. Membership levels remain relatively steady, despite a few changes over the year. Our events have attracted growing audiences and high-calibre speakers.

In April, we held a live networking function titled Tasmania—China, the Ongoing Business Relationship. Senator for Tasmania and Assistant Minister for Industry Development, the Hon Jonathon Duniam delivered the keynote address. Interim National CEO Michael Clifton also spoke.



Events in 2020-21

TAS BRANCH

BRANCH PRESIDENT REPORT CONT'D

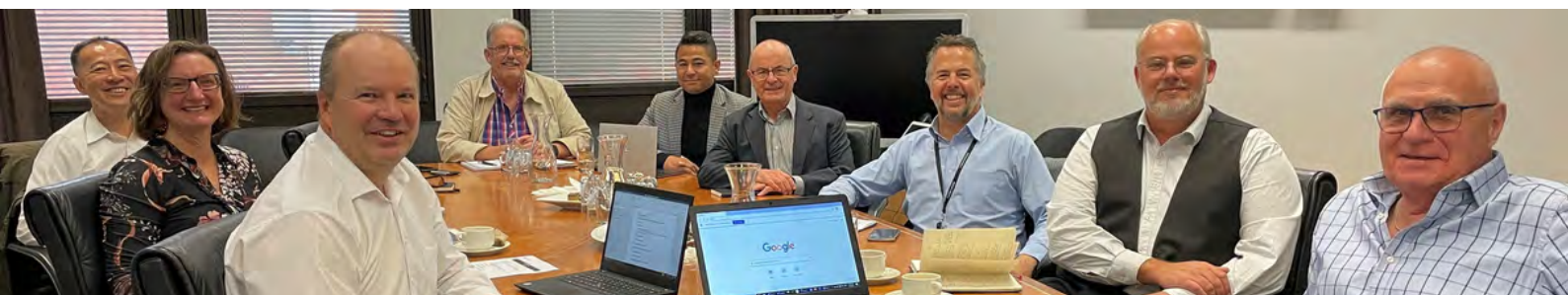
In the second half of the year, we introduced our Insights Breakfast Series. These events are held monthly, alternating between Hobart and Launceston. Attendance continues to grow, and we have an exciting program of upcoming events planned for the year ahead.

Thanks go to outgoing Board members Beth Mathison, Justin Hill, and Quinten Villanueva for their contribution to ACBC Tasmania. I look forward to working with our continuing Board members, as well as welcoming new ones to the fold.

Despite the challenges at a political level, Tasmania's export trade to China soared to a record high of \$1.53 billion in 2020. While the path ahead may be uncertain, there are opportunities beyond question. I eagerly await to see what develops.

KEY EVENTS

November 2020	Reimagining Tasmania. Ambassador Graham Fletcher & National President David Olsson
April 2021	Tasmania & China – the Ongoing Business Relationship. Federal Assistant Minister for Forestry & Fisheries, Senator, the Hon Jonathon Duniam & Interim National CEO Michael Chilton
July	Trade Update by national sponsor, ANZ
August	Tasmanian Trade Minister, Hon Guy Barnett
September	HE Will Hodgman, High Commissioner to Singapore & National President David Olsson
October	The Forestry Industry – Trends & Opportunities- New Forests and Forico
November	Traceability in the International Market Place – with expert panel



Branch Report - Victoria

A MESSAGE FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

MATTHEW SCHOFIELD, BRANCH PRESIDENT

Despite the unpredictability of intermittent lockdowns, ACBC Victoria has held some of our most successful activities to date over the last 12 months, hosting over 3,000 attendees across 37 in-person and online events.

We ushered in the Year of the Ox with a rare in-person Lunar New Year cocktail function at Marvel Stadium, welcoming over 130 guests. Our in-person National Agribusiness Summit was live-streamed into China, where the hybrid model proved to be a major success in expanding our audience to 300+. We also successfully launched a series of partnership webinars with industry and government leaders, including our ongoing 'China Export Program' series with Global Victoria, a 'Strategic China Briefing' series and a 'Healthier Together Series' supported by Swisse.

Our sector Working Groups have continued to provide support to our members during these challenging times and we held over 30 online meetings this year. To deepen the discussion, and as a service to our members, we invited experts to speak at a number of these meetings. The information shared deeply enhanced our members' knowledge, connected them with sector experts and helped them to plan strategically for the post-COVID-19 recovery phase.

ACBC Victoria also successfully applied for federal and state business support grants and secured additional funding from the National Foundation for Australia China Relations for our successful in-person Agribusiness and on-line Health Summits.

Our members remain the focus of our activities. We are proud to have provided them with strong networking, knowledge and advocacy in support of the Australia-China trade relationship and believe opportunities for business remains strong as we work together during 2022 and beyond.



Events in 2020-21

VIC BRANCH

KEY EVENTS

October 2020	Property & the Pandemic – Australia's Real Estate Sector ACBC Leadership Series – Michaela Browning, NFACR
November	ACBC Leadership Series – Geoff Raby Building Drought Resilience – ACBC Vic & CSIRO Aust-China Int'l Trade & Investment Expo 2020- Global Health Tech Innovation in an Era of Turbulence ACBC Vic Medical Product Registration and Regulation in China with ACHA
December	China Market Update with Vic Commissioner to Greater China Brett Stevens Members' and Friends End of Year Celebration China's Fixed Income Market – China Construction Bank/OMFIF
February 2021	China Capital Markets Series ACBC Vic Science Series with CSIRO - Future Protein Sources Lunar New Year Celebration @ Marvel Stadium
March	International Women's Day Lunch Proptech - Revolutionising the Rigid Industry of Real Estate
April	China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair) Info Session Strategic China Briefing: Brett Stevens – Vic Commissioner to China ACBC Vic Science Series with CSIRO - Ending Plastic Waste ACBC Vic & Invest Victoria Virtual Business Delegation: Food Innovation
May	China's New Laws on Animal Testing Renminbi Internationalisation and Investment Opportunities in China
June	Global Vic Women in Export More than Sport – Platforms for cultural understanding and engagement
July	Australia-China National Agribusiness Industry Summit Virtual Delegation - Showcasing capabilities and investment opportunities in Regional Victoria
August	August China Export Program – Getting the Basics Right ACBC Vic Science Series with CSIRO – Biotechnology opportunities in the Health Sector
September	Australia China National Health Industry Summit Export Series - Freight your goods to China, quarantine certification and finding the right port of entry Trade Update from China with DFAT and Austrade Education Sector Roundtable – Recalibrating for the New Reality of International Education Australia China Global Talent Business Accelerator Series for the Health Sector Start Up Gippsland incubator program
October	Trade Data Update – Report on 5-year sector analysis Export Series – Distributing your goods in China



Branch Report - WA

A MESSAGE FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

JAMES CLARKE, BRANCH PRESIDENT

The WA-China relationship continues to be a strong highlight in the Australia-China space. Following a smooth and structured transition of the WA branch president role from immediate past president Mr Adam Handley, whilst COVID-19 restrictions continued to hinder a range of cross-border activities, the solid foundation laid by Adam over his many years as state president and the freedoms experienced in Western Australia due to COVID-19 controls meant that ACBC WA has been able to have strong engagement with members, as can be seen by the list of the past 12 months' events.

At the beginning of the year, ACBC WA and the CCCA Perth Branch signed a strategic partnership MOU, further strengthening the cooperation between the two organisations in Western Australia, with a focus on creating more opportunities for dialogue between businesses and executives from Australian and Chinese sides. This kicked off a series of closed-door roundtable discussions operating under Chatham House Rule, where executives talk openly about challenges faced around various topics.

In a time where the Australia – China national conversation has been fraught with negativity, ACBC WA has continued to advocate for stronger business ties between Western Australia and China and maintains regular ongoing engagement with all sectors of our membership, and with the West Australian state government. Not least of all have been the Ping Pong Friendship Games Exhibition Match between the WA Deputy Premier and the Chinese Consul General in Perth on the 50th anniversary of the first Ping Pong diplomacy games in 1971; and the 3rd West Australian Premier's China – WA Strategic Dialogue, which had over \$20bn of Chinese investment in Western Australia represented in the discussion.

ACBC WA's China National Day celebrations made national headline news with the WA Premier Hon Mark McGowan, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Perth Mr Dingbin Long and Dr Andrew Forrest AO all speaking to the importance of the Australia – China relationship.

ACBC WA success is once again a testament to the efforts of our committed Executive Committee and members, who understand and reinforce the critical Western Australia–China business and people-to-people relationships. We look forward with anticipation to next year and hope for resounding celebrations of the 50th anniversary of bilateral ties.



Events in 2020-21

WA BRANCH

KEY EVENTS

December 2020	Member Networking Drinks hosted by CITI
January 2021	China's Grand Strategy and Australia's Future in the New Global Order" with Geoff Raby
February	Chinese New Year Celebrations at Crown Perth
March	Sharpening the Edge of Soft Diplomacy luncheon CIIE Seminar
April	China's 14th 5-Year Plan – Prospects for WA
May	Round Table Series – Iron Ore & Investment Session
June	Members Networking Drinks hosted by RSM
July	Culture and Media Committee Movie Premiere of "The Six"
August	Members Southwest Regional Tour - Food & Agriculture / Education & Tourism Sub Committees Annual Ping Pong Friendship Games Members Networking Drinks hosted by SRK Consulting
September	China Policy Session China National Day Celebrations Premier's China-WA Strategic Dialogue
October	Round Table Series – Greenmailing in the Resources Industry and Safety



CANBERRA NETWORKING DAY

BUSINESS TALKS CHINA



THE CONVERSATION WE NEED TO HAVE

Our signature event, Canberra Networking Day, returned this year in an on-line live format. With the bilateral trade relationship facing critical questions, we brought together our political leaders, senior business leaders and China experts for an in-depth analysis of the issues businesses face today.

Held on 5 August, the digital event was necessitated by the pandemic, but we none-the-less attracted an audience of over 300 members and guests from every branch in Australia, as well as colleagues from AustChams in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Important contributions were made by the Hon Dan Tehan (Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment), Senator the Hon Marise Payne (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Opposition Leader the Hon Anthony Albanese, Shadow Foreign Minister Senator the Hon Penny Wong and Pru Bennett (Chair of the National Foundation for Australia China Relations).

The discussions with political leaders were led by the Hon Warwick Smith AO, who encouraged speakers to share their views on these issues and on the roles that business can play in managing a complex and multi-dimensional relationship.

Alongside these conversations, panel sessions with business leaders and leading commentators on the Australia-China relationship focussed on three key issues:

- the role that business can play in rebuilding and resetting the terms of business engagement with China
- why China's consumer story still matters to Australia
- China's path to a carbon neutral 2060: implications for an Australian business

A summary of key themes and messages from this year's event is available to members on ACBC's web page. We look forward to a return to an in-person session in Canberra in 2022.

"What I'm saying on behalf of business is let's have good dialogue with our governments, let's understand the security reality – but let's recognise we are reliant on one of the fastest-growing economic entities in the world, which is going to have more impact on us, not less."

Hon Warwick Smith AO, Chair of BCA International Engagement Committee

BUSINESS TALKS CHINA

“China is resetting the terms of engagement for foreign investors..... Australian business needs to understand China’s priorities in order to better anticipate business opportunities. Listen to what China’s leaders are saying because they are often signalling the direction of future policy decisions.”

Peter Cai, Project Director, Australia, Relations, Lowy Institute

“Geopolitical tensions and trade frictions are real and are not going away in the near-term. Business needs to be mindful of this and have a plan to address these issues. This requires detailed and well informed scenario planning based on, robust research and good advice.”

Laura Mattiazzi, Regional General Manager, Agribusiness, Westpac

“There are three big trends shaping the Chinese consumer economy, namely the ongoing growth of the digital economy; increasing focus on domestic consumption; and the coming of age of the Chinese consumer.”

Andrew Martin, Managing Director, Head of Asset Management, MA Financial Group

“China’s consumption story is far from over. China will continue to be a market too large for business to ignore. Australian agricultural and health products, as well as tourism and education services, are still in demand. But to succeed, Australian exporters will need to have a laser sharp focus on the ensuring that their products or services are unique, reflect the changing preferences of the Chinese consumer, and above all are delivered digitally.”

Albert Tse, Founding Partner, Wattle Hill Capital

“The pool of Chinese household savings has been seen as a ‘pot of gold’ to solve many of China’s domestic structural problems, but that this may not be as clear given the countries ageing population and the costs associated with meeting its climate commitments.”

Richard Yatsenga, Chief Economist, ANZ

“Australia and China have shared interests in the openness of the global trading system, in harnessing new forms of energy, in finding climate change solutions, in long-term food security and even in fighting future pandemics.”

David Olsson, National President ACBC & International Director, King & Wood Mallesons

“Australia’s focus on diversification should extend beyond the development of new markets to include an expanded range of goods and services exports. ..The transition we are seeing in China and its new goals, will mean that the things we have relied on for trade with China will not hold for much longer.”

Dr Merriden Varrall, Director, KPMG Australia Geopolitics Hub



BUSINESS TALKS CHINA

“Australian boards need to focus on growing ESG [Environmental, Social and Governance] obligations. It is not efficient to take a short-term or reactionary compliance-based approach to these issues and must consider a longer-term strategy where we all work together to assist companies in the value chain to respond effectively to China's climate change goals.”

Sarah Barker, Partner, MinterEllison

“Australia's export profile is far too narrow and resource-dependent. There is much potential for Australia to become a major supplier to China and the region of “green steel” using Australia's abundant renewable energy sources to create hydrogen for steel-making.”

Professor Frank Jotzo, ANU Crawford School of Public Policy

“It is now going to be crucial to see government and business working together in relation to China and employing a Team Australia approach. This is vital to maintain the people-to-people links in this relationship.”

The Hon Dan Tehan, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment

“This is a very important discussion and an important gathering. The importance of Australia's relationship with China, I think, is evidenced by the high level of engagement with today's Canberra Networking Day. I want to state very clearly that the enduring business and personal community ties are central to the Australia-China relationship”.

Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Foreign Affairs

“The Australia China Business Council has existed for almost as long as Australia has had diplomatic relations with China. Our oldest non-government institutional link with China, you play a key role in the bilateral relationship between our two countries. This role is perhaps even more important now, as the bilateral relationship between Australia and China weathers an unsettled period.”

Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs

“What is needed is a rigorous analysis of the risks that exposure to China presents...economic interdependence with China helps to manage and reduce security risks by keeping China engaged in multilateral frameworks and disciplines.”

Prof James Laurenceson, Australia China Research Institute, UTS



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We also acknowledge our sponsors who support the many activities our branches provide to members.





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