

Knowledge.
Networks.
Advocacy.

Annual Review 2024



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

ACBC Annual Review

2024



Australia China Business Council
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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.

Contents

AUSTRALIA CHINA BUSINESS COUNCIL

	Page
1. About Us	3
2. Our Vision and Strategy	3
3. President's Message	4
4. Our Governance Structure	6
5. Our Operations	7
6. Our Engagement	8
• Green Economy	9
• Canberra Networking Day	10
• Business Roundtables	11
• Working Groups	12
• Reports and Submissions	13
• Government and Diplomatic Briefings and Relationships	14
• Issues Briefings and Industry Updates.	15
• Cultural Celebrations	16
7. Our Branch Executive Committees	17
8. Our Sponsors and Partners	29



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 2023-2024, a reflection of a transformative year for the Australia China Business Council (ACBC).

This past year has been marked by renewed momentum in Australia-China relations, underscored by key diplomatic visits, business delegations, and growing engagement across government, business, institutions and the wider community.

As global dynamics change, ACBC has played a vital role in supporting and advocating for our members. We have worked tirelessly to add ballast to government efforts to stabilise bilateral ties, while delivering on our own suite of programs and initiatives aimed at shaping Australia's future economic engagement with China.

At the end of 2023, our board set clear priorities in response to an uncertain global environment, recognising that a 'business as usual' approach would not suffice. Twelve months on we are pleased to note a significant improvement in bilateral relations – the best in many years. Consistent and pragmatic diplomacy, economic imperatives and the return of a regular rhythm of government and business engagement have paved the way for this progress.

Crucially, the fundamental complementarity of the Australian and Chinese economies remains the foundation of this relationship. Both nations benefit from their economic partnership, and this interdependence continues to drive mutual growth and opportunity.

Achievements

ACBC's efforts are anchored in our strategic pillars of Knowledge, Networks, and Advocacy, and this has guided our accomplishments over the past year.

- **Strengthened engagements:** delivered over 250 events nationwide, involving over 3,000 participants. Highlights included our largest ever Canberra Networking Day 2023, attracting over 300 delegates, cementing its status as the premier forum for exploring Australia China bilateral relations.
- **Green economy leadership:** continued to activate our highly regarded Green Channel climate initiative, now an integral part of our Green Economy Forum.



We convened dialogues on renewable energy, critical minerals and green technologies, fostering collaboration where Australian expertise and resources can align with those of China to address climate change and support Australia's energy transformation efforts.

- **Advocacy and insights:** amplified the voice of Australian businesses, emphasising their critical role in the bilateral relationship in the context of a challenging geopolitical narrative. We continued to provide data-driven insights to policy leaders, ensuring informed discussions on trade and investment.
- **Balancing business risks and opportunities:** through comprehensive analysis and expert insights, supported members in navigating the interconnected risks and opportunities of trade and investment with China.

Governance

This year, our board focussed on aligning ACBC's operating model with its mission to deliver maximum value to members. There is more to be done, but we are making encouraging progress.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

We welcomed Tom Parker as our new National CEO in late 2023, bringing a renewed focus on strategy and operational excellence. His leadership, along with the contributions of our state and territory branch CEOs, has already made a significant impact.

Acknowledgments

Our efforts are the result of collective efforts. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to:

- Our members, whose commitment to a positive trade, investment and commercial relationship with China has guided our work through complex times.
- Our national, branch and event supporters, including Rio Tinto, MA Financial, HSBC and more recently Treasury Wine Estates, whose valuable financial and in-kind support has enabled us to execute our vision.
- Key stakeholders including the National Foundation for Australia China Relations (NFACR), Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT), Austrade and the various State and Territory government trade offices in Australia and offshore, for their invaluable contributions.
- Our board of directors and committee chairs who have been a source of guidance and support, providing strategic leadership during a period of profound change. I thank each of you for your commitment to the ACBC and our mission.
- Our dedicated employees across all branches, and in our national office, whose tireless efforts have ensured that we continue to deliver exceptional value to our members through our advocacy, and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

Special thanks also to:

- Foreign Minister Senator the Hon Penny Wong and the Minister for Trade and Tourism, Senator Don Farrell, for their leadership and support of ACBC, and to former Ambassador Graham Fletcher and current Ambassador Scott Dewar and their teams in Beijing who have provided exceptional insights into the business and political environment for our members.

- Ambassador Xiao Qian and his teams within the Chinese Embassy in Canberra and across the Consulates.
- And finally, our colleagues at the AustChams in Mainland China and Hong Kong SAR. We were delighted to invite them to our Canberra Networking Day in 2023 and 2024 and continue to look at opportunities to work more closely together.

Looking ahead

As we look forward, ACBC recognises the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in navigating the Australia China relationship. The relationship is stabilising, but many difficult issues remain on the table. The evolving dynamics of trade, investment, technology and sustainability create a complex environment where risks and opportunities often intersect.

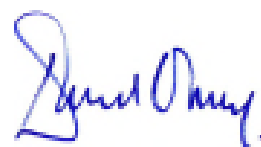
ACBC is committed to equipping Australian businesses with the insights, networks and resources needed to navigate the evolving dynamics of the Australia China relationship. As businesses face the dual challenges of managing risk and seizing opportunity in an interconnected global economy, we aim to be a trusted partner in helping businesses adapt and build resilience.

By fostering collaboration, delivering timely insights, and facilitating meaningful dialogue, ACBC empowers its members to navigate complexity with confidence. Our mission is to support informed decision-making and help businesses thrive amid the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world.

I am proud of what we have achieved together over the past year and confident that ACBC is well-positioned to support our members in their future endeavours.

I look forward to continuing this journey with you all.

Thank you for your unwavering support and engagement.



David Olsson AM – Chair and President

Our Governance Structure

ACBC NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As at 30 June 2024

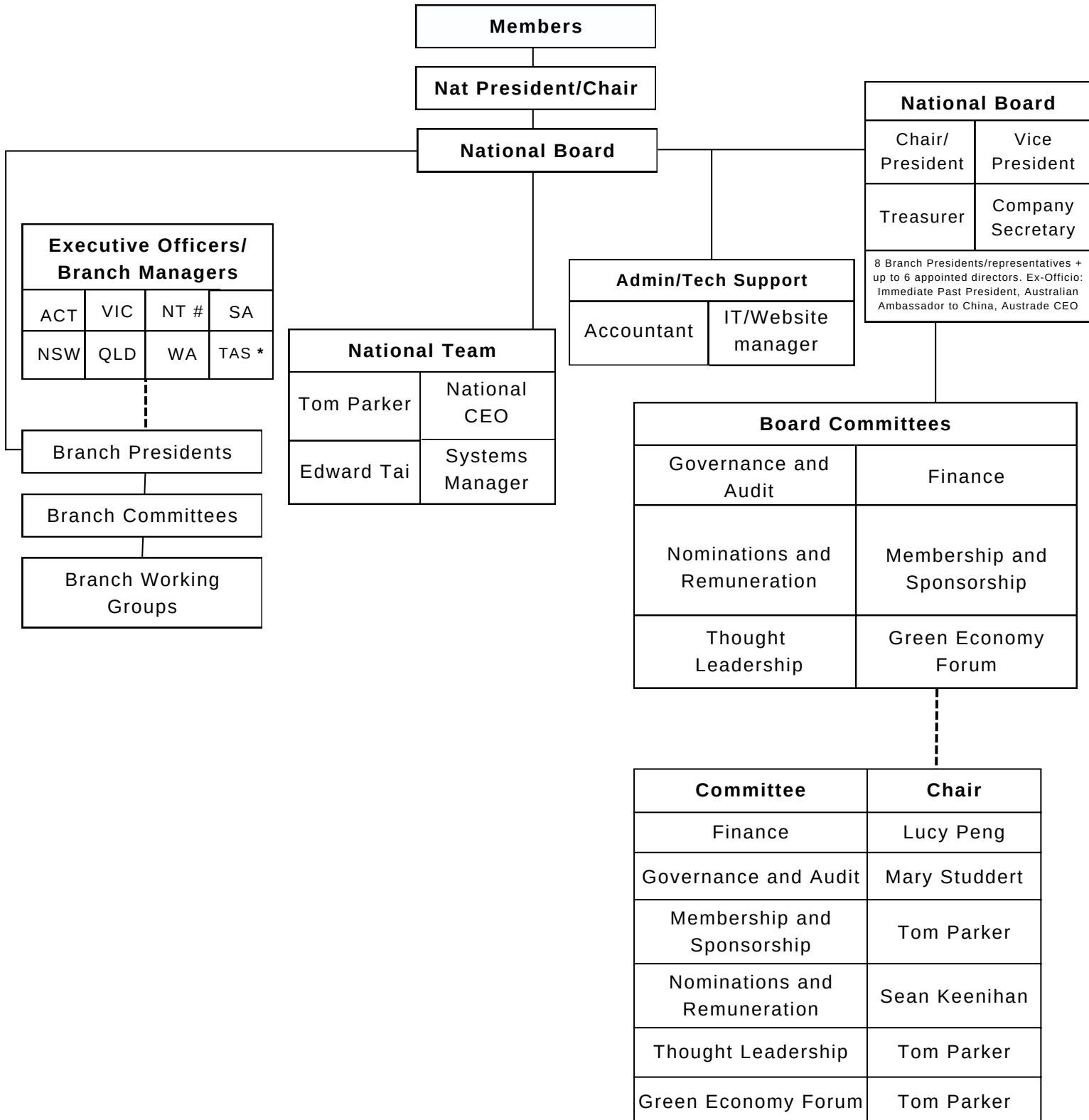


Our Operations

AUSTRALIA CHINA BUSINESS COUNCIL

ACBC ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

The National Leadership Group as at 30 June 2024 comprised as follows:



*TAS is administered by VIC

NT is administered by WA

Our Engagement

OUR VOICE

As a member-based organisation operating across a national network, ACBC serves as a trusted platform for engagement and dialogue between Australian and Chinese stakeholders, acting as the collective voice of Australian business to advocate for opportunities, foster collaboration, and provide insights to navigate the complexities of this vital bilateral relationship.

This year, we worked with several Australian industry groups to help end their trade impediments in accessing the China market. This included communication and representation with Australian ministers, trade officials, and the Chinese Ambassador and MOFCOM representatives at the Embassy.

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 deliver a vibrant and high-quality program of activities and events across our national network. Over the past year, we hosted more than 250 events, including national industry forums, local seminars, and working group meetings. These covered a variety of sectors, industries, and themes, bringing together business leaders, government decision-makers, and key stakeholders.

These events, a combination of face-to-face and online formats, have been critical in fostering understanding and engagement. Our in-person forums have enabled deeper connections and meaningful dialogue, while our virtual sessions provided flexible access to timely insights and expanded participation across geographic boundaries. Through these trusted platforms, ACBC continues to play a vital role in facilitating dialogue, enhancing collaboration and building mutual understanding in the Australia-China relationship.



Green Economy Forum: evolving for greater impact

ACBC's **Green Channel** initiative - our dedicated program for climate change collaboration - entered its third year in 2024, making significant progress in fostering Australia-China cooperation on the green economy. As we move into 2025, the program has evolved into the **Green Economy Forum** to reflect the urgency of the climate crisis and the need for a refreshed strategic approach to address these challenges effectively.

The Green Channel initiative made notable strides in its own right throughout the past year, serving as a critical platform for raising awareness of the immense collaboration opportunities between Australian and Chinese businesses in the transition to a low-carbon future. Through a range of impactful events, roundtables, and discussions, it connected key stakeholders from both nations to share insights, explore innovative solutions, and chart a course toward sustainable economic growth.

Recognising the growing complexity of climate challenges and the need for broader engagement, we have transitioned the Green Channel into the Green Economy Forum. This evolution underscores ACBC's commitment to aligning with the **Statement on Joint Outcomes of the Australia-China Annual Leaders' Meeting** in Beijing in November 2023 and reflects our understanding that accelerating collaboration requires a new strategy - one that brings together an even wider group of businesses, industry associations, researchers, academics and policymakers.

Looking ahead, the Green Economy Forum will serve as a strategic platform to deepen bilateral collaboration, focusing on the balance of risk, opportunity, and resilience in the pursuit of net-zero emissions. Australian and Chinese businesses are uniquely positioned to lead the transition through their leadership voice, investments, innovative technologies, and specialized services. The Forum will continue to catalyse these efforts by fostering dialogue, sharing knowledge, and promoting actionable strategies to drive sustainable growth and transformative climate solutions.

As a nation, Australia must act more decisively to meet its climate commitments. The Green Economy Forum provides an opportunity to explore practical pathways, amplify the business voice, and position Australia-China partnerships at the forefront of the global transition to net zero.



CANBERRA NETWORKING DAY 2024

This year's Canberra Networking Day (CND) brought together ACBC members to engage with Australia's political and business leaders, contributing to the national conversation on the future of Australia-China economic engagement—both at a policy level and in practice.

CND commenced with the HSBC Executive Dinner, held at the National Gallery of Australia. Over 270 attendees celebrated Australia's culinary excellence with a menu curated by Adam Liaw, featuring Australian rock lobster and Penfolds wine. Kellie Parker, CEO of Rio Tinto Australia, delivered a keynote reflecting on the enduring Australia-China relationship: *"A strong partnership isn't worthy of the name unless it can endure. Ours has, and it will."*

The main event at Parliament House featured addresses by Senator Penny Wong (Foreign Minister), Senator Don Farrell (Minister for Trade and Tourism), and Peter Dutton (Leader of the Opposition). ACBC President David Olsson AM reflected on the transformative impact of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA), now in its 10th year, stating: *"The future of Australia-China relations is in our hands, and it is our collective determination that will shape it."*

Business panels provided engaging discussions on critical topics, including the green energy transition, the future of bilateral trade, and the importance of a rules-based approach for global trade. Panellists shared insights into navigating geopolitical uncertainties and building resilient economic partnerships. Sessions on building Australia's China capability and bilateral renewable energy opportunities underscored the need for innovation and collaboration to drive growth.

The day concluded with a cocktail reception hosted by the Chinese Embassy, highlighting the enduring strength of our people-to-people relationships.

CND 2024 reaffirmed its role as a vital platform for shaping resilient, collaborative, and prosperous Australia-China relations.



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 250 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.

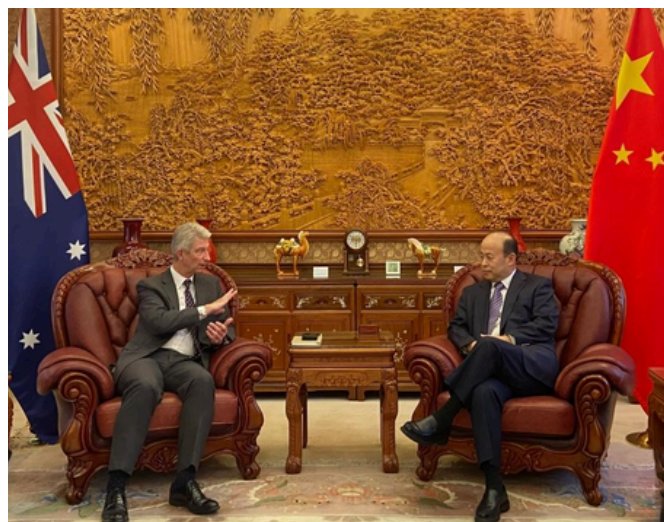
Participants included leaders from business, academia, and government, policymakers, ambassadors, trade officials, representatives of AustChams and industry associations, experts from think tanks and research institutions in both countries.

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:

Vice Mayor of Shanghai Hua Yuan and delegation	Melbourne 28 July 2023
Australia China Decarbonisation Roundtable	Perth, 17 August 2023
8th Belt & Road Forum	Hong Kong 13 September 2023
Canberra Networking Day	Canberra, 17 October 2023
Australia China Education and Tourism Symposium	Sydney, 24 October 2023
PM Albanese meeting with Australian business leaders roundtable	Shanghai 7 November 2023
China International Import Expo	Shanghai 8 November 2023
DFAT Briefing Australian Ambassador to China designate Scott Dewar	Brisbane, 17 November 2023
Foreign Investment Review Roundtable with Treasury Deputy Secretary Roxanne Kelley PSM	Sydney, 31 January 2024
Chinese Foreign Minister H.E. Wang Yi roundtable	Canberra, 20 March 2024

Strategic China Briefings by ANU Geoeconomics	Perth, 21 March 2024
Boao Forum for Asia, Senior Business Leaders Forum	Hainan Province 28 March 2024
JD.Com FMCG Buyer Mission	Brisbane, 12 April 2024
Australia-China Business Forum with CCPIT Chairman Ren Hongbin & 100 person delegation	Sydney, 15 April 2024
Austrade GM Designate Briefing Dominic Trindade	Melbourne, 17 April 2024
ACBC-BAC: Reconnected Skies: Celebrating the Return of China Flights to QLD	Brisbane, 9 May 2024
China v Australia Matildas Match InvestSA networking function	Adelaide, 31 May 2024
Australia China Economic Cooperation Forum with CCCA	Melbourne 6 June 2024
Duanwu: Friendship Through Sport	Sydney, 9 June 2024
Premier Li Qiang's State Lunch Reception	Canberra, 17 June 2024



WORKING GROUPS

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

While most of the working groups operate at branch level, some events are offered to all members. Following is a listing of national and branch working groups in FY24:

National

- Australia-China Green Economy Forum

VIC Branch

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

NSW Branch

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

QLD Branch

- Education Industry Working Group
- Financial Services Industry Working Group
- Food & Agriculture Industry Working Group
- Mining & Energy Industry Working Group
- Tourism Industry Working Group

WA Branch

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



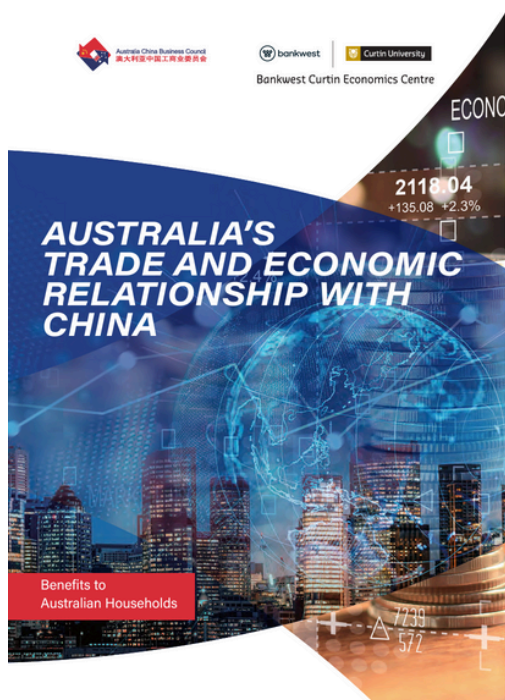
REPORTS AND SUBMISSIONS

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 FY24 include:

Format	Title
Report	Australia's Trade and Economic Relationship with China: Benefits to Australia Households
Report	Critical Facts, Critical Minerals and China: What Australians need to know
Report	Climate Energy Finance report on Onbound Green investment
Submission	Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth on the understanding and utilisation of benefits available to Australian industry and communities under Free Trade Agreements



Copies of these reports and submissions can be accessed on ACBC's website

GOVERNMENT AND DIPLOMATIC BRIEFINGS AND RELATIONSHIPS

As part of our member services, we regularly facilitate federal and state government briefings for members, including sessions with representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Australian Embassy, Australian Consulates, and the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) in mainland China, Hong Kong SAR, and across Australia. We also engage with state and territory trade and investment bodies.

These briefings provide critical updates on key policy developments, the bilateral relationship, and the latest economic and market trends in China. In FY24, we maintained regular communication with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Canberra, as well as with Chinese Consulates across Australia through our branch network. These engagements offered members the chance to discuss priorities, portfolios, and issues of importance directly with senior officials.

2024 marked a significant year for bilateral milestones, with opportunities to jointly celebrate the 10th anniversaries of President Xi Jinping's visit to Australia and the signing of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. ACBC leaders participated in Premier Li Qiang's state visit in June, attending events in Adelaide, the official reception at Parliament House, the CEO Roundtable in Perth, and a site visit to Tianqi Lithium.

The past year also saw a dramatic increase in delegations from Chinese central and provincial governments, enabling members to reconnect with senior officials, working-level contacts, and industry zone management. These engagements further strengthened sister-city and sister-state relationships, offering valuable opportunities for collaboration.



ISSUES BRIEFINGS AND INDUSTRY UPDATES

Throughout the year, we delivered a comprehensive program of high-quality issue briefings and industry updates across our national network. These included large-scale summits, forums, and symposiums, as well as smaller, more focused roundtables and briefings.

Our events featured a diverse range of speakers, including China experts, economists, academics, industry leaders, business professionals, and representatives from our membership. These sessions addressed recent and emerging developments, challenges, and opportunities in the China market, alongside geo-political, and industry specific information.

On average, we offered at least 2 events per week across our national network, covering themes as varied as opportunities in health and biotech, strategies in e-commerce, and developments in agribusiness. With branches operating across Australia, we are uniquely positioned to tailor events to the specific needs and interests of states and territories, as well as the priorities of our members and industry working groups in those regions.

Information about all upcoming events and opportunities is available on our website and through our monthly branch and national newsletters. To enhance accessibility, we record selected events, which members can browse and view through the members-only section of our website. Many of these briefings are free for members, and we also provide sponsorship opportunities for organisations looking to engage further with our network.



CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

Throughout the year, we leveraged our national platform, connections, and networks to promote, facilitate, and strengthen people-to-people and cultural links. Recognising the critical role these connections play, we remain committed to maintaining them as a vital stabilising force in our bilateral relationship.

In partnership with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Australia (CCCA) and other Chinese community organisations, ACBC branches hosted events celebrating the diverse aspects of the Australia-China relationship that underpin commercial ties and strengthen our people-to-people links.

Social and networking highlights across the country were our 50th anniversary galas to celebrate the establishment of the Australia China Business Council.

Other Cultural celebration highlights included:

- The Duanwu (Dragonboat Festival) AFL Football Match with Deputy Prime Minister
- 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 FY24 from each of our branch executive committees:

VICTORIA

ACBC Victoria has had a dynamic 12 months, marked by a wide array of events, delegations and networking opportunities that helped strengthen ties between the Australia-China business communities. We hosted numerous forums, roundtables, and delegations, drawing participation from both industry leaders and government officials from both countries to foster deeper collaboration.

The highlight was our 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner to celebrate ACBC's half-century supporting the Australia-China trade relationship. It was a spectacular evening held at the Park Hyatt in Melbourne with 300 guests from the government and major enterprises.

The ACBC Vic Working Groups facilitated discussions across key industry sectors, including Energy, Agribusiness, Health, Education, Property, Tourism, Capital Markets and more. We continued our monthly online Government Briefings as a valuable membership service.

We organised high-level roundtables with the Australian Consul General-Designate to Shanghai and the Australian Ambassador-Designate to China delivered key insights into Australia-China ties, keeping our members ahead of emerging trends.

Major forums included the Australia-China Economic Cooperation Forum, the Bi-ennial Australia China Health Summit on Med Tech, the Agribusiness and Food Forum on sustainability, and the Education forum on student employability. Regular China briefings with Brett Stevens, Victorian Government Commissioner to Greater China and other experts offered valuable market insights and supported our members' engagement with China.

We hosted 13 inbound delegations from major cities and provincial Chinese governments, including Chengdu, Guangdong, Guizhou, Jiangsu, Jinlin, Nanjing, Ningbo, Qinhuai, Shandong, Shanghai, Sichuan, Tianjin and Zhejiang.



VICTORIA (cont.)

Our annual International Women's Day High Tea and the Global Victoria Women in Export Roundtable highlighted women's leadership in international trade, while events such as the HSBC Australia-China Strategic Wealth Roundtable and the ANU Geoeconomics Roundtable focused on key economic discussions.

Innovation took centre stage at NexStar 2024: Melbourne-Tianjin Sprint Final Pitch, fostering collaboration between Australian and Chinese entrepreneurs. We also launched the Australia-China Household Report and hosted the Australia-China Decarbonisation Forum with ANU on Offshore Wind energy. Once again, we were key partners of the annual Australia China Economic Trade and Investment Expo which attracted over 5,000 delegates.

ACBC Victoria remains committed to supporting bilateral trade and investment relationships through impactful engagement and a vibrant program of activities for our members that will help shape the future of Australia-China relations well into 2025 and beyond.



From our Gala with the Premier and Governor to roundtables with FIRB, from the Business Networking Reception at the PRC Consulate-General to co-hosting the China-NSW Business Leaders Dinner, 2023-24 was an exciting and busy year for ACBC NSW. In a drive to deliver for our members, we (President Helen Zhi Dent & CEO Patrick Mayoh) focused on the following areas.

Providing a platform for members to engage with Federal Government decision-makers. This included a closed-door roundtable with the Foreign Investment Review Board at HSBC and numerous briefings with outgoing Australian diplomats (including Australia's Deputy Ambassador in Beijing, Consul General in Chengdu, Consul General in Shanghai and Austrade General Manager for Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan). We benefited from Chatham House discussions with senior political leaders, including the Shadow Minister for Trade and Tourism, the Hon Kevin Hogan MP, and the Member for Bennelong, Mr Jerome Laxale MP. These roundtables provided an opportunity for our members to directly consult senior government officials and politicians on their experiences navigating the bilateral relationship.

Elevating ACBC's access to the NSW Government. A highlight was hosting both The Hon. Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW & The Hon. Chris Minns MP, Premier of NSW, along with over 350 business leaders at our Chinese New Year Gala. We also worked closely with Investment NSW on numerous delegations and roundtables (including a briefing with Greater China Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner Helen Sawczak) and were delighted to bring on Investment NSW as a State Partner in 2024. We hosted numerous NSW politicians at our Education Symposium at Town Hall and NSW Assistant Speaker Jason Yatsen-Li MP at our 50th Anniversary Gala featuring a high-calibre business panel with speakers from BJEI, Aqualand, the George Institute and King & Wood Mallesons.

Enhancing our members' capability to exploit opportunities in the bilateral trade and investment relationship. We ran numerous roundtables on geopolitical trends and market dynamics with ANU, KPMG and PRC Macro. We also ran a workshop with state sponsor Hitpoint for 50 entrepreneurs on how to grow in the China market; a roundtable with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority on opportunities in HK and the Greater Bay Area; numerous discussions with senior Chinese officials and diplomats; and an innovation symposium for 80 participants at MA Financial featuring Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business Founding Dean Xiang Bing. Our International Women's Day panel and lunch at MA Financial saw 90 participants benefit from business leaders' insights on thriving through Australia-China initiatives.



NEW SOUTH WALES (cont.)

Delivering with Chinese partners: We co-hosted several events with the PRC Consulate-General in Sydney, the China Chamber of Commerce in Australia and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade. This included a High-Level Business Networking Reception at the Chinese Consulate for 100 of our VIPs; a memorable China-NSW Business Leaders Dinner at the Chinese Friendship Garden, and (supporting ACBC National on) the Australia China Business Forum for 300 industry leaders.

Supporting our member and partner events. This included speaking at countless trade, investment and economic cooperation symposiums, exhibitions (launching the Alibaba Expo, the inaugural China Commodity Fair, and EZZ's E-commerce Summit). We received Chinese delegations with our members, including Deputy Mayor of Beijing Sima Hong, Deputy Mayor of Hangzhou Chen Jin, Deputy Director of the Shanghai Municipal Treasury Department Cheng Wei, and Finance Secretary of HK Paul Chan. Reflecting our focus on opportunities in decarbonisation and clean energy, we joined a panel at the Smart Energy Council's annual conference (10k+ participants) and joined their delegation to China in June. Hosting a high-level business panel at ICBC Sydney Branch's 15 Year Anniversary and delivering a keynote on Chinese Investment into Australia were also highlights.

Providing networking and business matching opportunities for our members. The people-to-people links are what makes our work so meaningful. One highlight was connecting Sarah Quinn of My Charity Raffle with Michael MacRitchie of MGI Entertainment. The result? A record-breaking charity drive that saw raffle winners enjoy a week-long trip to attend the Paris Fashion Week. Michael and Sarah continue to build exciting charity experiences and have developed a great friendship.

We are very grateful to our State Partners for making all of this possible – BJEI, New Hope, Investment NSW and Hitpoint. We also greatly appreciate the support and counsel of our talented Executive Committee – it has been a fabulous year and we are excited to build off this great momentum.



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 more recent announcements that China Southern and China Eastern will resume direct flights to Brisbane later this year is a major step in promoting direct trade and investment and people-to-people ties between Queensland and China.

This year, we were delighted to welcome Herbert Smith Freehills and the Port of Brisbane again as our Branch Sponsors. I would like to thank them for their commitment and also acknowledge the Sofitel Brisbane and Trade and Investment Queensland for their ongoing support.

There are a number of successful events worth highlighting, including our Cocktail Event on 1 December 2022 to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Australia-China Relations & End of Year Networking, which was preceded by a MOU signing between ACBC QLD and the China Chamber of Commerce in Australia (CCCA) for increased cooperation in trade and investment. CCCA is a valued ACBC QLD partner, and I look forward to our ongoing work with CCCA for the benefit of our respective members.

Other key event highlights were: 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; Welcome to Queensland Reception for HE XIAO Qian, Ambassador of the PRC on 30 March 2023 and Incoming TIQ CEO Insights on 20 April 2023.

We are confident the Premier's proposed visit to China later in 2023 will reap new opportunities for Queensland and China and that after a successful year of consolidation and growth, ACBC QLD will have a busy year ahead, delivering a range of exciting events and activities.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank both new and renewing members for their support. ACBC QLD looks forward to working with you in 2024.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australia (WA) enjoys a strong partnership with China and represents a wide variety of businesses that are actively involved with China. In 2024, ACBC WA branch keeps playing a vital role in navigating the dynamic landscape of Australia-China relations, support by our Executive Committee which has expertise in resources, mining, agricultural, education and professional services.

ACBC WA maintains strong ties with government at the Federal and State level and enjoys strong working relationships with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Austrade, the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and the WA Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation. A highlight of the year was the Premier of Western Australia's 6th China-WA Strategic Dialogue in Perth. The inaugural Dialogue took place in Beijing in 2018, and alternates between Perth and Beijing on an annual basis. On 2 October 2024, it was the first time the Hon. Roger Cook MLA has presided over the Dialogue since becoming the WA Premier. Premier Cook stated that the relationship between WA and China has been "one of the great success stories of the last century". There are more than 20 chairpersons and senior executives attending the Dialogue who were decision makers from a diverse range of industries, including mining & resources, mining services, shipping & logistics, oil & gas, renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, financial services & banking, and primary industries.

ACBC WA continues to serve as a focal point for the State's business relations with China; our diversified members include major resources companies and medium and small businesses. ACBC WA branch organises many events for our members this year. High-level Business Roundtables were held on different topics, such as "Strategic China Briefings by ANU Geoeconomics Roundtable", "ACBC WA & ANU Australia China Relations Roundtable", and "BCEC National Report launch Roundtable". We also hosted a Roundtable and a Welcome Reception for Mr Gary Cowan, new CEO of the National Foundation for Australia-China Relations. Our events provide further insights into the experiences of our Chinese trade and investment partners in Western Australia. ACBC WA's annual Chinese New Year Gala Dinner and China National Day celebrations held in partnership with the China Chamber of Commerce in Australia (Perth Branch) have become highlights of the bilateral business community, attended by 500+ business leaders. The "Ping Pong Friendship Games with the Premier and General Consul in Perth" is also one of our annual flagship events of the year.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA (cont.)

The most significant report, “Australia’s Trade and Economic Relationship with China – benefit to Australian households” released by Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre commissioned by the Australia China Business Council. ACBC WA plays an essential role in facilitating this report, overseeing the entire process from initial concept to final release. The full findings were officially launched on 17 June 2024 in coordination with Chinese Premier Li Qiang’s visit to Australia. The report shows that WA exports over \$147bn of goods to China in 2022-23 and the positive trickle-down effects of this crucial relationship on WA households. Additionally, WA branch effectively disseminates the report to maximizing its impact and fostering informed dialogue within the business community.

Throughout the year, ACBC WA branch also works closely with the Foreign Affairs Office in China and CCPIT; we also welcomed many inbound delegations such as from Guangdong, Sichuan and Henan province.

Going forward ACBC WA branch will continue its commitment to sharing knowledge and insights about business opportunities, facilitate a high-quality network and provide platforms to forge lasting business relationships, and advocate to support trade and investment between Western Australia and China.



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2024 has been a pivotal year for ACBC ACT, as we participated and contributed to the key events in a year of the rebuilding of Australia-China bilateral relationship. Notable highlights include our hosting of the visit of China's Foreign Minister, H.E. Wang Yi to Canberra for the seventh Australia-China Foreign and Strategic Dialogue, and our involvement in supporting the successful visit by Premier Li Qiang's. These milestone events helped to underscore the much needed communication and commitment from both Canberra and Beijing to deepen economic, political, and cultural exchanges amidst the complexities of the current global landscape.

Capitalizing on this positive momentum, ACBC ACT engaged its members in the signature event, Canberra Networking Day (CND). The 20th annual CND brought together key leaders from government, business, academia, and industry to explore the future of Australia's economic partnership with China. Three powerful themes emerged: capability, opportunity, and ambition—each poised to shape this vital relationship in the decades ahead.

The increase in visits to Australia and the rising number of Australian senior executives and boards traveling to China reflect a growing recognition among Australian business leaders. There is an increasing need to understand China better—its influence on future industries and technologies, its impact on the global economy, and its role in shaping Australia's competitive advantages. These efforts align with our mission of connecting the Australia-China business community.

In summary, 2024 was marked by significant progress and achievement for ACBC ACT. We actively participated in high-level delegation visits, facilitated numerous conversations, advanced business initiatives, and strengthened the bonds between Canberra and Beijing, all in pursuit of our mission to connect the Australia-China business community. We are proud of our role in the national capital, the unwavering support from our members, and what we have been able to achieve as a small branch within the ACBC network.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In 2024, ACBC SA has played a pivotal role in reshaping discussions in our State around engagement with the China market. The multi-year impact of China's tariff and non-tariff restrictions on trade in a number of key South Australian export industries has resulted in a broad-based re-examination of the State's economic relationship with China.

In the early part of the year, ACBC SA worked strategically to support State Government and industry group efforts to lobby Chinese counterparts to remove trade impediments in wine and lobster. Simultaneously, we engaged in discussions with those industry groups around how to restructure the approach to the China market in light of the lessons learned. ACBC SA co-hosted roundtables with the Minister for Trade and the Department for State Development with key industry groups and business representatives with a focus on wine, seafood, education and green energy and minerals.

ACBC SA led engagement with industry and business in South Australia's sister province (Shandong) to research and discuss at multiple forums, opportunities for collaboration in green energy and minerals value chains. This culminated in the "2024 Shandong Province-South Australia Green, Low Carbon and High-Quality Heavy Industry Development Roundtable in Jinan co-hosted by ACBC SA and Shandong CCPIT. The keynote speaker at the roundtable was the Governor of South Australia, HE Frances Adamson. An MOU was signed between ACBC SA and Shandong CCPIT to provide a framework for ongoing collaboration to explore and develop green economy opportunities.

Throughout 2024, ACBC SA has briefed in and supported renewed South Australian Government ministerial outbound visits to China and worked collaboratively with the SA Government and the PRC Consulate in South Australia to support major inbound PRC delegations and events that brought together the Australia-China business community in SA.

We close out 2024 with the removal of trade impediments, the launch of the SA-specific Benefits to Households Report and a clear understanding and resolve around the opportunities for South Australian businesses to re-engage with China in new, sustainable ways in existing and emerging identified areas of mutual interest and benefit.



BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Following, is a listing of our branch executive committees immediately following the 2023 branch annual general meetings:

VIC Executive Committee

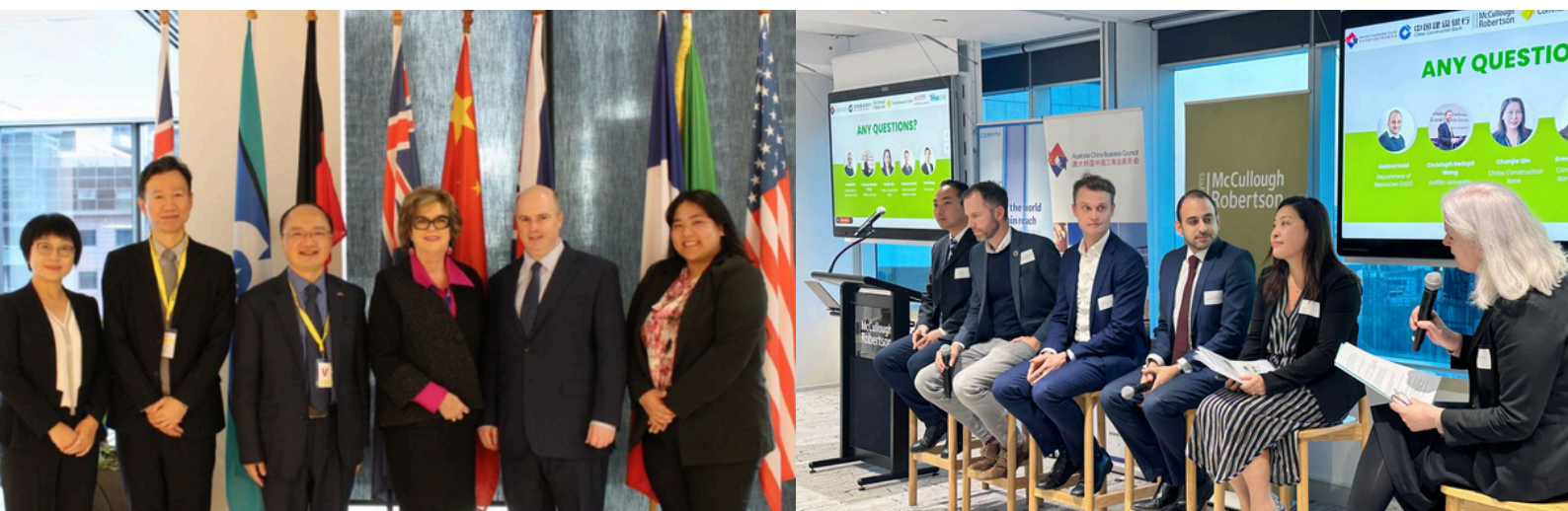
Office	First Name	Last Name	Member organisation
Member	Bruce	Atkinson	Vynka Pty Ltd
Member	Mona	Chung	Cross Cultural International
Vice President	Liming	Huang	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Member	Grace	Ji	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Member	Lawrence	Lam	Luminary Pty Ltd
Member	Jene	Liu	Director
Member	Amanda	Mao	Founder and Managing Director
Member	Charles	Qin OAM	Chin Communications
President	Rhys	Roberts	Roberts Gray Lawyers
Member	Theo	Sakell	Pitcher Partners
Executive Director and Vice President	Matthew	Schofield	SW Accountants & Advisors
Member	Susan	Su	Melbourne Airport
Vice President	On Kit	Tam	Melbourne University
Member	Guy	Thompson	UMS
Vice President	Mary	Wang	RSM
Treasurer	Lisa	Wang	Pitcher Partners
Member	John	Warmbrunn	EgoPharmaceuticals
Vice President	George	Yeung	Harbour Guidance Pty Ltd T/A Jeanswest
Vice President	Celina	Yu	Global Business College of Australia
Vice President	Isabel	Zhang	Bastion

Retirees at October 2023

- Matthew Schofield retired as President and retained the role of Executive Director on the National Board and Vice President ACBC Victoria
- Rhys Roberts retired as Vice President to take on the role of Branch President

The following retired from the Executive Committee at the AGM :

Tom Parker (Vice President), Ying You (Treasurer), Vera Ou-Young (Member), Mary Studdert (Member) and Andrew Deszcz (Member).



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	Deloitte
Vice President	Vivienne	Yu	MVP Advisory
Member	David	Ingram	Bank of China
Member	Jessie	Liu	ANZ
Member	Tim	Regan	The George Institute for Global Health
Member	Steve	Zabeti	Accru Felsers

QLD Executive Committee

Office	First Name	Last Name	Member organisation
President	Stephen	Abbott	KPMG
Vice-President	Michael	Choi	Mercatus International Group
Treasurer	Zee	Zhang	MGI Accounting Firm
Member	Johanna	Roche	Johanna Roche & Associates
Member	Ben	James	Brisbane Airport Corporation
Member	Laura	Chen	Lumen Capital Solutions
Member	Brodie	Paul	Anthony Paul Pty Ltd
Member	Matthew	Macdonald	Morgans Financial
Member	Michael	Lai	The Star Entertainment Group
Member	Dr John	Cowie	Brisbane Economic Development Agency
Member	Marianne	Lloyd-Morgan	McCullough Robertson
Ex-Officio	Melissa	O'Rourke	Queensland State Office, DFAT
Member	Devinka	Wanigesekera	Trade and Investment Queensland
Member	Mark	Couchman	ANZ
Director	Carl	Hinze	Holding Redlich

Retirees at October 2023: Brian Healey (K&L Gates), Miriam Kent (BEDA) and 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	Pan	HFW
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	John	Li	Ernst & Young
Member	Julie	Song	Fortescue Metals Group
Member	Peter	Chong	KPMG
Member	Camille	Chen	Legend Media Group
Member	Adam	Handley	HFW
Member	Kelly	Smith	Murdoch University
Member	Oscar	Fong	Overtures:Co
Member	Noelene	Murray	Perdaman Global Services
Member	Maree	Arnason	
Member	Tracey	Lim	Ear Science Institute Australia

Retirees at October 2023: David Cullen, David Izzard, Pearl Chua and Kevin Zhang



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
Secretary	Eveline	Kuang	King & Wood Mallesons
Member	Brian	Pontifex	Rio Tinto
Member	Chris	Gartner	University of Canberra
Membership Officer	Gavin	Gao	Isentia
Member	Gonzalo	Vilches	Austrade
Intern	Elsa	Zhang	
Member	Kent	Peters	Canberra Grammar School
Member	Jane	Golley	Australian National University
Member	Kimberly	Gu	Nexia Canberra
Member	Tracy	Cui	ACT Government
Member	Sung	Lee	PwC

SA Executive Committee

Office	First Name	Last Name	Member organisation
President	Sean	Keenihan	Norman Waterhouse
Vice President	Jing	Li	JOID Consulting
Vice President	Richard	Dolan	Bec Hardy Wines
Treasurer	Jim	Gouskos	Pitcher Partners
Strategic Advisor	Kane	Robson	
Strategic Advisor	Angela (Xun)	Wang	
Member	Anthony	Coles	GreenGold Venture
Member	Jane	Johnston	Study Adelaide
Member	Jing	Cao	Chinese Language and Cultural Advice



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 HSBC, Rio Tinto, and MA Financial for their support during the year and to Treasury Wine Estates that joined in February 2024.



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

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VIC	HONG KONG TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
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VIC	KELLY & WINDSOR
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VIC	MANSION JOLLIE
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VIC	TEMA MODA
VIC	THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
VIC	TREASURY WINE ESTATES
VIC	TRUFFLE HILL
VIC	VETASSESS





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