



MEDIA RELEASE: Victoria backs Belt and Road

On the 30th of May, two weeks after the Premier of Victoria The Hon. Daniel Andrews MP's attendance at the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, the Premier announced his support for Victoria to comprehensively engage with the Belt and Road Initiative.

The Australia-China Belt & Road Initiative (ACBRI) attended the Belt and Road Forum alongside the Premier of Victoria The Hon. Daniel Andrews MP and Australian Minister for Tourism, Trade and Investment The Hon. Steven Ciobo MP.

Co-hosted by ACBRI and the Business Council of Australia (BCA), 60 leading CEOs of Australian companies were brought together to learn from ACBRI and the Premier's experiences at the Belt and Road Forum.

Quotes from the Premier of Victoria The Hon. Daniel Andrews at ACBRI-BCA Belt and Road Forum Debrief Luncheon:

"We've moved from policy to project, we've moved from talking about frameworks to actually delivering the infrastructure that we need today and the infrastructure that will be needed into the medium and long term"

"It's such a competitive market, so many parts of our region and our world are bidding and vying for an increased share of Chinese investment [and] influence over Chinese policy making"

"Whether it be in construction, design, professional services - all the component parts of any significant infrastructure undertaking - we have a unique perspective, a wealth of knowledge and a hoard of experience to lend."

"It's our job to try and gather up the efforts of many and put them into one coherent pitch to make sure that China's Central Economic Plan includes us"

"There's an energy in Victoria-China relations that's not been there in the past, there's a real sense of the opportunities of this relationship"

"A complex, multilayered relationship, one based not just on transactions, but one about trust, more than simply purchases, but a true partnership"

Quotes from ACBRI Advisory Board members at ACBRI-BCA Belt and Road Forum Debrief Luncheon:

Mr Malcolm Broomhead (Chairman of ACBRI Advisory Board):

- Corporates need to “get out ahead of the government” in their involvement with the Belt and Road Initiative.
- “The whole point of Belt and Road is that it has the focus of all of the government in China; the approval system is much more streamlined and the ability to find trustworthy partners is much more streamlined,”
- “My advice is get on with it. And it is not just construction and raw materials, it is services as well.”

The Hon. Andrew Robb (ACBRI Advisory Board Member):

- “Everything in China for the past two years has been focused on Belt and Road. Yet 90 per cent of Australians wouldn’t know what (it) is ... The Chinese need us because we give credibility to the process. We are needed and we have something very tangible to offer, but we have to build the initiative,”

Quotes from distinguished panellists at ACBRI-BCA Belt and Road Forum Debrief Luncheon:

Former ANZ chief executive Mike Smith:

- “With the death of TPP, there is a vacuum in terms of some of the multilateral trade initiatives. This is possibly a nice way for Australia to really get into where the action is,”

Head of Asia at Hastings Funds Management Grant Dooley:

- “How do we assist the Chinese in strengthening their brand ... to mitigate some of those issues around political risk and concerns that other countries may have about Chinese investment going into those markets?”
- “There is a real way to partner with Chinese capital that de-risks that.”

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