

Framework Agreement
between
The Government of the State of Victoria of
Australia and
the National Development and Reform
Commission of
the People's Republic of China
on
Jointly Promoting the Silk Road Economic Belt
and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road

In October 2018, the Government of the State of Victoria of Australia and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China (NDRC) have signed *Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation within the Framework of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative*. With a view to implementing the MOU, clarifying the principles, working mechanisms, key areas and road map, the two sides, upon friendly consulting, agree to jointly formulate and implement this *Framework Agreement on Jointly promoting the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road*, provide guidance for all-round practical cooperation.

Article 1 Cooperation Principles

The two sides agree on the following cooperation principles for the joint development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

- Adhere to the principle of mutual consultation, joint efforts, and shared benefits. Bearing the silk road spirit of peace, cooperation, openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit, both sides define areas, objectives and mechanism of cooperation through consultation, draw up framework agreement in a joint manner, bring into play respective strengths with the concept of openness, green and clean governance, and thus realize the objectives of high-level and sustainable development that improves social welfare, so as to promote common prosperity and development.

- Adhere to the principles of business-dominated, market-oriented, and government-guided. Comply with international rules, and respect laws of opposite country, with highlighting the importance of procedure open, transparent, and non-discriminatory. In areas of infrastructure connectivity, trade and investment, the enterprises and financial institutions should play the main role in the market orientation and in line with international rules. The governments of both sides should strengthen coordination and guidance, as well as policy support to ensure long-term and sustainable cooperation.
- Stick to all-round cooperation while focusing on key areas. Both sides will plan for all-round cooperation in such areas as policy coordination, connectivity, trade and investment, innovation and people-to-people exchanges, with a focus on pushing forward important areas and major projects that have a bearing on the long-term interests of the two sides.

Article 2 Cooperation mechanism

Two sides agree to establish a Joint Working Group on Jointly Promoting the Belt and Road Initiative to guide and facilitate the cooperation. This Working Group will be co-chaired by Premier Daniel Andrews of Victoria Government and Vice Chairman Ning Jizhe of the NDRC. Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier of Victoria, Danny Pearson MP and Deputy Secretary General Su Wei

of the NDRC will be the deputy chairs. Within the Joint Working Group, both sides will establish secretariat, it shall be set within the Commissioner for Victoria office in China, and Department of International Cooperation of NDRC, with Mr Tim Dillon, Commissioner for Victoria to China and Mr Gao Jian, Deputy Director General, NDRC to be the key contact points.

Both sides will maintain close communication through diverse forms of communication as necessity arises at various working levels, such as the exchange of visits, video conferences, correspondence, etc, in order to actively expand and assess cooperation opportunities. Both sides agree to consult with business, community and stakeholders to progress activities detailed in Article 3 through various format. The Working Group shall meet on half-year basis.

Article 3 Agreed areas of cooperation

The two sides agree to promote practical cooperation within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative focusing on areas of policy coordination, facility connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial cooperation and people-to-people ties. Recognizing the mutual strengths and interests, both sides agree to focus on the following areas of cooperation following the principles of article 1.

- Infrastructure with the shared objective of increasing the participation of Chinese infrastructure companies in Victoria's infrastructure construction program and of promoting

cooperation of Victorian firms in China and third party markets.

- Innovation with the shared objective of applying both sides' world class and complementary research and innovation capabilities and explore industrial cooperation in areas of high-end manufacturing, biotechnology, agriculture technology.etc, and promote technological innovation cooperation and incubator cooperation by means of market.
- Coping with Population Aging with the shared objective of building on successful cooperation in this field and leveraging our respective strengths, including through exploring opportunities to share the capabilities of our respective service systems building and development of coping with population aging through exchanges and visits, collaboration or training initiatives.
- Trade development and market access with the shared objective of enhancing two-way trade for mutual benefit between Victoria and China, especially for agricultural products, food, nutraceuticals and cosmetics and the mutual benefits of joint Victorian and Chinese access to third party markets.

Both sides agree to actively explore other areas of cooperation.

Article 4 Infrastructure

Both sides acknowledge that infrastructure is a key area of jointly promoting the Belt and Road Initiative. In this area, both sides have good cooperation foundation, great potential and prospect. Both sides agree to further enhance cooperation of relevant companies (including in the related fields of construction, engineering, construction technologies, design, legal and project financing). Both sides agree to the following actions to provide the foundation for deeper cooperation in the infrastructure field.

The NDRC agrees:

- To encourage Chinese infrastructure firms to establish a presence in Victoria with a view to participating in the tendering processes for Victoria's significant projects.
- To promote Victoria's infrastructure pipeline and project opportunities amongst Chinese infrastructure firms, including facilitating events and round-tables.etc,
- To provide more detailed information to Victorian firms about infrastructure opportunities and third party markets cooperation.
- To explore the possibility of establishment of a joint Infrastructure Accelerator to support cooperation on infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Victoria agrees:

- To send regular delegations of Victorian Infrastructure companies to China to better understand the opportunities and approaches to

being involved in infrastructure projects in China and third party markets.

- To send a delegation of senior Government infrastructure officials to China to learn from China's experience and to share learnings about Victoria's infrastructure strengths including public private partnerships and road safety.
- To provide more detailed information about infrastructure opportunities and capabilities in Victoria.
- To explore the possibility of establishment of a joint Infrastructure Accelerator to support cooperation on infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Two sides agree to continue to hold infrastructure roundtables and forums regularly and explore future cooperation opportunities.

Article 5 Road map

Both sides agree to work towards having an agreed Cooperation Road Map on key areas by first half of 2020, with a view to having the joint chairs to sign. Both sides agree to formulate a draft of the roadmap by the end of March 2020, so that the Working Group could discuss.

Following finalisation of the first Roadmap, the parties agree to continue to work together to identify new opportunities for closer partnership between Victoria and China, with a view to finalising further Roadmaps under the auspices of the BRI MOU in the future.

The parties agree to faithfully implement any agreed roadmaps to the best of their abilities and to enable mutually beneficial implementation.

Article 6 Settlement of Differences

Both sides will settle differences in the interpretation, application or implementation of this Agreement through friendly consultations.

Article 7 Entry into Force, Amendment and Termination

This Agreement will enter into force from the date of signature. The Agreement is not legally binding.

This Agreement will remain in effect while the MOU between the Victoria Government and NDRC on Cooperation within the Framework of the Belt and Road Initiative remains in effect.

The Agreement can be released publicly through the written consent of both sides.

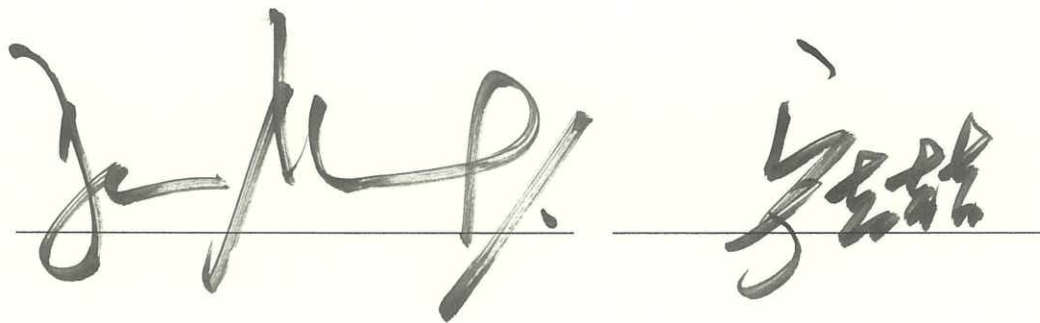
This Agreement may be amended by written consent of the two sides and the amendment will be an integral part of this Agreement.

To terminate this Agreement, one side should give the other side a written notice at least three months in advance. This Agreement will be terminated after joint agreement. The termination of this Agreement will not influence executing programs which will continue according to the agreed timetable until the completion of programs.

Signed in duplicate in Beijing on 23 October 2019, in the Chinese and English languages, both texts having equal validity.

Premier,
the State Government of Victoria,
the Commonwealth of Australia

Vice Chairman,
the National Development and
Reform Commission of the
People's Republic of China



The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink, each positioned above a horizontal line. The signature on the left is a stylized cursive script, likely representing the Premier of Victoria. The signature on the right is a cursive script in Chinese characters, likely representing the Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China.