

International Travel Report

(People's Republic of China)

(1-5 November 2025)

Electoral

Nick McGowan MP

Reason for travel

The People's Republic of China is a critical partner for Victoria, and Victorians, economically and culturally. The Chinese people have a long and distinguished history of migration from China to Victoria dating back to the Gold Rush in the 1850s. From the 1990s migration and trade between our two countries has increased exponentially. Many Chinese mainlanders during this period looked to Victoria as a first-class location to study, while others recognised and actively sought out economic opportunities and invested in all sectors of our local economy.

The Chinese community, or Chinese-Australia as I refer to it, is the second largest in Australia. Some 427,811 people in Victoria have Chinese ancestries, of which 171,447 were born in China. Across Australia 1 million individuals identified with Chinese ancestry or Chinese heritage according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2024 data. It is estimated that our Chinese community is steadily growing here in Victoria, rising by as much as 27 per cent between 2016 and 2021. In my electorate of north-east metropolitan region, Box Hill and Glen Waverley are widely recognised as vibrant localities with flourishing Chinese Australian culture and communities. Of the top three local government areas with the largest Chinese communities, two of these (Monash with 47,238, and Whitehorse with 44,445) form part of my electorate. According to data from the 2021 Australian Census the demographic composition is predominately young to middle-aged with the largest cohorts aged from 25–34 (19.3%) and 0–14 (18.0%).

Dates and locations on which business was conducted (travel diary)

Saturday November 1 (Guangzhou. Guangdong)

- Canton Fair and Trade Exhibition
- Canton Tower
- Engagement with Newcity (Aus) Development Group
David Cao, Chairman of NewCity
- Newcity residential development in Tianhe District, Guangzhou
- Shelly Qin, Vice-President of NewCity and Director of NewCity (Australia)
- Michael Cao, Managing Director of NewCity (Australia)
- Qin Li, Executive Deputy Director of the Committee on Economic Affairs of the CPPCC Guangdong Provincial Committee

Sunday November 2 (Guangzhou and Shenzhen)

- Concorde International. President Australian Alumni
- Formal lunch Concorde Holdings
- Travel by train from Guangzhou to Shenzhen

Monday November 3 (Shenzhen)

- Nanshan Energy Ecological Park
- Shenzhen Smart City formal briefing and tour of Headquarters
Willian Gu, Vice-General Manager
- Shenzhen foreign affairs engagement
Richard Zhong, Deputy Director General of the Office of Shenzhen Municipal People's Government
- Skyworth Group
Zhenyu Fu, General Manager of Overseas Business Unit
- Solavita (Shenzhen Skyworth Photovoltaic Technology Co. Ltd.
Laremar Li, Country Manager, Renewable Energy Business

Tuesday November 4 (Shenzhen)

- Baisheng Construction Technology Company (modular housing)
- Chunjiang Wu, Chief Operations Manager, Holder East
- Travel by flight from Shenzhen (SZX) to Shanghai (SHA) flight

Wednesday November 5 (Shanghai)

- Su Biao, Deputy Director, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Division, Foreign Affairs Office, Shanghai Municipal People's Government
- Xiaohongshu (Red Note)
Liz Huoqi, Global Business Solution Team in Xiaohongshu Business
- Ali Baba Group

The town, city or suburb in which the accommodation was located; and the value of the accommodation (if claiming the cost of accommodation)

Hampton by Hilton Guangzhou New Town (2 nights) 307.50 per night
Hilton Shenzhen Futian (2 nights) 238.50 per night
Hongqiao State Guest House Shanghai (2 nights) 267.00 per night

The mode and value of commercial transport (if claiming the cost of commercial transport)

International 2608.54
Internal SZK-SHA 617.00

Member's objectives

For my entire three-years in state parliament, I have wanted to travel to China. I believe strengthening our human-to-human relationships is not just a nice-to-have, it's a have-to-have. I felt it was important because so much of the news we hear and see in Victoria focuses on misconceptions and plays into stereotypes. When I visit my local schools and see new Australians, young children and those particularly with Chinese heritage, I want them to know they are every bit as valued and cherished, as is their country, and as much as any other child (no matter what their heritage). In addition, having worked for over a decade for the United Nations, I understand just how much of the achievement in world poverty reduction is as a result of China's remarkable growth and prosperity. There is much Victoria can learn from China, the vice versa. We also share a population with a shared heritage. I have something in the order of 6,000 Chinese-born Australians in just one of my 11 districts (Ringwood), and that's not including Box Hill and Glen Waverley which are two of Australia's largest population bases for Chinese-born Australians, and this is before we include data in respect to the number of international students and workers in Victoria. This is something I am incredibly proud of. I have returned to Ringwood, Blackburn, Mitcham, Nunawading, Heatherdale, Heathmont, (parts of Donvale, Vermont, Forest Hill) having made important connections with decision makers which I hope will help facilitate an even closer relationship between us. While China is an ancient and magnificent civilisation, its modern foundations are young. Our two countries share a great deal in common. We both exhibit a great sense of humour, we value trust and liberty, we understand the common good, we value family and the public services as keys to our societal bedrock, both committed to multilateralism, we have each suffered at the hands of a common invader and we have a shared colonial heritage in the British. Put plainly, there is a great deal of commonality between us. What better starting point from which to build and strengthen our bilateral relationship.

Parliaments and other organisations visited (if any)

- Canton Fair and Trade Exhibition
- Newcity (Aus) Development Group
- Committee on Economic Affairs of the CPPCC Guangdong Provincial Committee
- Concorde International
- Nanshan Energy Ecological Park
- Shenzhen Smart City

- Shenzhen Foreign Affairs Department
- Skyworth Group
- Solavita (Shenzhen Skyworth Photovoltaic Technology Co. Ltd. Laremar Li, Country Manager, Renewable Energy Business
- Baisheng Construction Technology Company
- Oceanian Affairs Division, Foreign Affairs, Shanghai Municipal People's Government
- Xiaohongshu
- Ali Baba Group

Persons met in relation to the reason for the travel and the assistance or information obtained from such persons

As outlined in the itinerary above.

Reference to documents or publications obtained or considered to be of interest in a Parliamentary sense

n/a

Summaries of the study areas pursued in the countries visited

new technologies
environmental management
waste to energy initiatives
transportation and public transport
urban development (including housing)

Summary of the results achieved and any recommendations arising appropriately, measurable outcomes 'achieved' over and beyond those outlined in my 'Objectives' will be provided to the Parliament as they occur.

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