

Member	Will Fowles	Electorate	Burwood/Ringwood
Period	1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025		

Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$12,514.74
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$0.00

Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance	
Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance	\$0.00
Member did not receive the motor vehicle allowance in the previous quarter and member has elected to receive the motor vehicle allowance for this quarter	No

Regulation 9 - Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	
Total amount paid to member for parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	\$0.00
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	n/a

Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Town or city in which accommodation was located	Value of the accommodation

Total number of nights for travel allowance claims 0

Total amount paid to member for travel allowance \$0.00

60cent underpayment, retified in quarter 4

Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport

Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims 0

Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance \$0.00

Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
11-Apr-25	16-Apr-25	Travel to China on Electorate business to study technological developments	\$4,824.67

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims 5

Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance \$4,824.67

International Travel Report

China

Study Tour on Electric Vehicles, Artificial Intelligence and
Technology in China

10 April – 17 April 2025

Electorate Business

Will Fowles

Member for Ringwood

Reason for travel

To study advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), e-commerce, electric vehicles and digital content production in China and explore how these technological developments can be applied in a local context, particularly within the Ringwood electorate.

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

Dates and Locations on Which Business Was Conducted (Travel Diary)

- **10 April:** Departed Melbourne for Shanghai.
- **11 April:** Arrived in Shanghai. Meeting with Tsingshan Holding Group Company Limited. Travelled by train to Hangzhou.
- **12 April (Hangzhou):** Visited one of the largest online e-commerce and MCN companies-Ling Jing. Dinner with representatives from local AI tech firms.
- **13 April (Hangzhou):** Meetings with a major start-up incubator and an AI content production company. Visit to tea-growing and tourism region (Jingshan visitor centre) . Dinner stakeholders in the tech ecosystem.
- **14 April (Hangzhou):** Visited and toured the head office of an AI business-Sheng Cai You Shu Hangzhou AI technology limited
- **15 April (Shenzhen):** Full-day meetings with BYD, including site tour, lunch, and discussions on commercial electric vehicles and innovation.
- **16 April:** Flight Shenzhen (SZX) - Shanghai (PVG). Depart Shanghai
- **17 April:** Arrival in Melbourne.

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

Accommodation was located in:

Hangzhou (3 nights) - \$481.17

Shenzhen (2 nights) - \$514.79

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

- International Flights: \$2,713.38

- Domestic Transport:

Train: Shanghai to Hangzhou - AU\$48.32

Taxi to airport - \$140.01

Domestic Flights: \$855.00

Member's objectives

To learn about the latest developments in AI, tech entrepreneurship, electric vehicles and digital innovation, and evaluate how such advancements could be relevant or adaptable to policy-making, business growth, and community benefit in the Ringwood electorate.

Parliaments and other organisations visited (if any)

- Tsingshan, Shanghai. An industrial conglomerate with businesses throughout the world, including part ownership of an Australian listed entity (Nickel Industries Limited (ASX:NIC). Producer of batteries for both automotive and stationary energy applications, with a focus on NCM (nickel, cobalt, manganese) chemistries.



Lunch with Wang Haijun (Director); Tsingshan HQ

- Sheng Cai You Shu, Hangzhou. Major start-up incubator, home to over 67,000 startups.



Senior Management, Sheng Cai You Shu

- Ling Jing AI, Hangzhou. Creators of animated content and fast-fiction e-books.



Ling Jing offices; content example

- TianQi, Hangzhou. E-commerce, with a particular focus on livestreamed content. International reach, particularly to the Chinese patriate community.



Livestreaming in process; displaying items being sold.

- Jingshan, near Hangzhou. Tea-growing region with nature-based tourism and agricultural production.



Picking tea; Jingshan Visitor Centre, local trade representative

- BYD Headquarters, Shenzhen. Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer with a significant focus on innovation and sustainability.



BYD's premium offering the Yangwang U9 (the dancing car)



New modular lithium battery; battery manufacturing facility

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

- Johnson Zhang: Hosted and facilitated meetings with tech and AI entrepreneurs.
- Wang Haijun: Tsingshan Holding Group Company Limited
- Xu Ze: Hangzhou Tianqi Holding group LTD
- Alex Qi: CEO of eForklift Pty Ltd representing Australia to visit BYD's Shenzhen factory

Representatives from:

- A leading e-commerce and MCN company
- Local AI technology firms
- AI content creation companies involved in animation and film production
- BYD

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

None formally documented; insights derived from meetings and site visits.

Summaries of the study areas pursued in the countries visited

Summary of the Study Areas Pursued

- **Artificial Intelligence in Media:** Demonstrations of AI's role in film and animation production surpassing traditional Hollywood techniques.
- **Digital Commerce:** Innovations in livestream shopping, multi-channel networks, and social commerce shaping modern consumption.
- **Tech Start-Up Ecosystems:** Exposure to policies and infrastructure fostering rapid innovation, investment attraction, and IPOs.
- **Electric Vehicles and Smart Manufacturing:** BYD's integrated approach to electric mobility and sustainability practices.

Summary of the results achieved and any recommendations arising

Summary of the Results Achieved and Recommendations

The delegation offered a rare window into China's cutting-edge digital economy and technology-driven culture. The tour reinforced the value of:

- Encouraging tech startups through innovation zones and incubators.
- Supporting creative industries powered by AI, such as film and content production.
- Fostering global partnerships in AI-driven electric vehicles and transport solutions.

Recommendations:

- Explore the establishment of AI content development hubs in Victoria.
- Support local innovation precincts modelled on Chinese incubator success.
- Engage more deeply with companies developing electric public transport fleets for possible trial or collaboration.

Conclusion

The insights gained during this AI-focused delegation highlight the global scale and speed of technology development in China. The rapid deployment of AI in media, commerce, and transportation suggests urgent opportunities for Victoria to position itself as a forward-looking hub of innovation. The trip reinforced the importance of strategic investment in local entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems, leveraging global learnings to drive economic and employment growth in Ringwood and beyond.

Author's Note

I'm grateful to the Parliament and the people of Victoria for enabling this opportunity to explore technological innovation abroad. Conscious of the need to travel responsibly, I sought to:

- Use public transport and ride-share options whenever feasible.
- Stay in centrally located accommodation to reduce travel costs.
- Accept offers of shared meals with hosts.

As always, I remain available to share these learnings with fellow Parliamentarians, stakeholders, or constituents interested in the future of AI, digital commerce, electric vehicles and economic development in Victoria.