Statement on Joint Outcomes of the China-Australia Annual Leaders' Meeting

20 November 2026

1. At the invitation of H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia, attended the 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Shenzhen, China. Prime Minister Albanese also visited Beijing.

2. President Xi Jinping met with Prime Minister Albanese in Shenzhen on 20 November. In Beijing, H.E. Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, and Prime Minister Albanese jointly convened the Annual Leaders' Meeting on 20 November. H.E. Zhao Leji, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, also met with Prime Minister Albanese in Beijing. The leaders exchanged views on China-Australia relations, as well as on key regional and international issues.

3. At the Annual Leaders' Meeting, the leaders reaffirmed their support for the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and reiterated the importance of a mature, stable, and constructive bilateral relationship. They agreed to continue to grow the bilateral relationship in 2027, the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Both sides agreed to uphold their respective national interests, and navigate their differences wisely.

4. Consistent with the Statement on Joint Outcomes issued in Beijing in July 2025, the two sides reiterated the importance of the 1972 Joint Communique on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the People's Republic of China and Australia and restated their commitment to their respective national policies and positions contained therein, including mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, and Australia's commitment to its one-China policy.

5. The leaders acknowledged the importance of regular engagement between leaders, ministers and officials on both sides, in support of the bilateral relationship. They welcomed the bilateral dialogues held since the last Annual Leaders' Meeting in July 2025, including the Foreign and Strategic Dialogue in April 2026, the Joint Ministerial Economic Commission in May 2026, and the Strategic Economic Dialogue in December 2025 and again in November 2026. They looked forward to holding the next iteration of these dialogues in 2027.

6. The two sides reaffirmed the importance of the multilateral system and an international order underpinned by international law, including the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. They agreed to continue to work together in the UN, WTO, G20, APEC, East Asia Summit and other multilateral platforms. Australia congratulated China on its successful hosting of the 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Shenzhen. Both sides welcomed the outcomes adopted during the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, and supported the tangible deliverables in areas including advancing an Asia-Pacific community, trade digitalisation, connectivity, digital economy and artificial intelligence. The two sides attached importance to cooperation under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and other frameworks.

7. The two sides reaffirmed support for people-to-people exchanges and highlighted the important role these played in deepening the bilateral relationship. They welcomed the important role played by the China-Australia High Level Dialogue, with the next meeting to be held in December 2026 in Australia.

8. The two sides agreed on the establishment of an AI dialogue, to exchange respective views on AI safety, governance and application.

9. The two sides announced the China-Australia Joint Statement on Climate Change and the Clean Energy Transition.

10. The two sides agreed to continue or expand engagement in:

- Political dialogue, including through continuing the Annual Leaders' Meeting, the Foreign and Strategic Dialogue, the Strategic Economic Dialogue, the Joint Ministerial Economic Commission, as well as other government-to-government mechanisms.
- Bilateral trade, including through the participation of both leaders in the China-Australia CEO Roundtable meeting on 20 November in Beijing. Both sides acknowledged the benefits the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) continues to deliver for the two-way trade and economic relationship and welcomed the continued progress on the General Review. China welcomed Australia's participation as the Guest Country of Honour at this year's China International Supply Chain Expo (CISCE) and Australia's record commercial presence at the China International Import Expo (CIIE).
- Climate change, energy and environment, including through the successful 10th China-Australia Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Change in Australia in

August 2026, with the next meeting to be held in 2027 in China. Both sides agreed on the importance of continued market-based trade in energy and resources products between the two economies. They welcomed continuing exchanges between officials on climate change and the environment, including on climate governance-related issues, dryland farming, climate-smart agriculture and the green economy.

- Steel decarbonisation; the leaders welcomed the inaugural China-Australia Policy Dialogue on Steel Decarbonisation, held in Canberra on 2 November, and agreed to continue advancing practical cooperation on lower-emissions iron and steel value chains, including technologies, fostering markets for lower-emissions iron and steel products, and credible standards and emissions-accounting approaches.
- People-to-people links, and other exchanges in culture, sport, education, innovation, academia, aviation and tourism. Leaders announced an China-Australia Year of Tourism in 2027 and confirmed that the China-Australia Tourism Dialogue would be held in Australia in 2027. Australia continued to welcome Chinese students and to value their contribution to Australian society. Both sides welcomed Australian undergraduate students undertaking New Colombo Plan study and internships in China, including in areas supporting the clean energy transition. Leaders welcomed collaboration on the voluntary return of culturally significant objects between cultural institutions, and their museums' ongoing exchanges of culturally significant exhibitions, including the holding of an exhibition featuring the Terracotta Warriors at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra in December 2026, and the National Museum of China's holding of the Songlines exhibition in 2027.
- Health; the leaders welcomed the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding on Health Cooperation between the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China and the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing of Australia and two-way activities on health collaboration, including exchanges in areas such as mental health and hearing health.
- Border enforcement, building on existing bilateral law enforcement cooperation in their mutual interest against forms of crime, including to combat illicit tobacco-smuggling, associated transnational organised crime, cybercrime, telecom and online scams.

11. The leaders agreed to convene the next Annual Leaders' Meeting in 2027. China welcomed the invitation of the Australian side for Chinese leaders to visit Australia at a mutually convenient time.