UTS:ACRI/BIDA Poll 2021
Australian views on the Australia-China relationship

Infographic

Elena Collinson and Paul Burke
June 2021
About three in 10 Australians (32%) say that the Australian government is managing Australia’s relationship with China well.

The majority of Australians (76%) express mistrust of the Chinese government.

Approximately six in 10 Australians (63%) believe that the Australian government should take a harder line with respect to its policies dealing with China.

About three in 10 Australians (74%) express concerns about Australia’s relationship with China. Approximately six in 10 Australians (62%) say they also see the benefits of the relationship.

About six in 10 Australians (62%) say that their view of China has become more negative following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eight in ten Australians (80%) say that ‘The responsibility for improving the Australia-China relationship lies with both countries’.

27% of Australians say that ‘the Australia-China relationship will improve in the next three years’.

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Political communication

About three in 10 Australians (28%) say that ‘The Australian government should not publicly call out actions by the Chinese government that Australia disagrees with’.

Almost three-quarters of Australians (72%) say that ‘The Australian government was right to publicly call for an international investigation into the origins of COVID-19’.

The United States

About six in 10 Australians (63%) say that ‘Australia can enjoy a good relationship with both China and the United States at the same time’.

65% of Australians believe that ‘China has more influence than the US in Australia’s regional neighbourhood’.

Conflict over Taiwan

Just over half of Australians (53%) that ‘In the event of conflict between the United States and China over Taiwan, Australia should remain neutral’.

Global and regional cooperation

74% of Australians say that ‘It is beneficial for Australia to work with China on global issues such as climate change and global health’.

72% of Australians say that ‘It is beneficial for Australia to work with China on regional issues, such as ending malaria in the Pacific’.
The economic relationship overall

80% of Australians say that ‘Australia is too economically reliant on China’.

About six in 10 Australians (63%) say that ‘Without close engagement with China, Australia would not be as prosperous as it currently is’.

Just over half of Australians (53%) say that ‘Australia’s economic relationship with China is more of an economic risk than an economic opportunity’.

Almost half of Australians (49%) say that ‘The Australian government needs to be supportive of having closer economic ties with China’.

Almost three-quarters of Australians (74%) believe that ‘Tourists from China provide a major economic benefit to Australia’.

About six in 10 Australians (63%) say that ‘Australia should continue towards making Australia an attractive destination for Chinese tourists’.

Just over three-quarters of Australians (76%) believe that ‘International students from China provide a major economic benefit to Australia’.

Approximately eight in 10 Australians (81%) say ‘Australian universities are too financially reliant on international students from China’.

Trade case studies

Tourism

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Education

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Foreign investment

Just over half of Australians (51%) believe that ‘Foreign investment from China is more detrimental than beneficial to Australia’.

Business ties

About six in 10 Australians (61%) say that ‘Australian companies should continue to pursue business opportunities with China’.
Half of Australians (50%) believe that ‘Australia should ban Chinese-owned apps such as TikTok and WeChat’.

Approximately six in 10 Australians (63%) say that ‘political tensions in the Australia-China relationship are negatively impacting Australians of Chinese origin’.

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35% of Australians believe that ‘The Australian government is successfully responding to Chinese government interference in Australia’.

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