



PARLIAMENT
OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Parliamentary Delegation

People's Republic of China and Mongolia
10 - 20 October 2024

REPORT | MARCH 2025



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Members of the Delegation

Leader of the Delegation

- Senator the Hon Sue Lines, *President of the Senate*
Senator for Western Australia

Delegates

- Hon Karen Andrews MP, *Member for McPherson, Queensland*
- Dr Carina Garland MP, *Member for Chisholm, Victoria*
- Mr Jerome Laxale MP, *Member for Bennelong, New South Wales*
- Mr Sam Lim MP, *Member for Tangney, Western Australia*
- Ms Zali Steggall MP, *Member for Warringah, New South Wales*
- Mr Keith Wolahan MP, *Member for Menzies, Victoria*

Staff and Officials

- Ms Fiona Bennett, *Chief of Staff to the President of the Senate*
- Ms Nyat Mulugeta, *Adviser to the President of the Senate*
- Ms Alex Cullum, *Director, International and Parliamentary Relations Office*

Introduction

A delegation from the Parliament of Australia led by Senator the Hon Sue Lines, President of the Senate, visited the People's Republic of China and Mongolia from 10 – 20 October 2024, meeting with parliamentary and government leaders as well as business and social enterprises.

The visit to the People's Republic of China followed a Guest of Parliament visit hosted by the Parliament of Australia for Her Excellency Ms Tie Ning, Vice Chair of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, People's Republic of China in 2023.

While the visit to Mongolia followed recent visits to Australia by senior Mongolian representatives and deepening ties between Australia and Mongolia across a range of sectors.

Acknowledgements

The delegation wishes to record its appreciation of the work that went into preparing for the visit, including briefings provided by officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The delegation also wishes to thank the staff of the International and Parliamentary Relations Office for their assistance coordinating delegation arrangements.

The delegation would particularly like to thank His Excellency Mr Scott Dewar, Australian Ambassador to China, Mr John Williams, Australian Consul General in Shanghai and Her Excellency Ms Katie Smith, Australian Ambassador to Mongolia and their staff for the support provided to the delegation.

Finally, the delegation would like to acknowledge the warm hospitality extended to them by representatives and organisations who received the delegation during their visit and thank all for sharing their insights, perspectives and friendship.

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Senator for Western Australia

Visit to the People's Republic of China

The visit by Senator the Hon Sue Lines and accompanying parliamentarians was the first Presiding Officer led delegation to the People's Republic of China since 2017 and was conducted at the invitation of HE Mr Zhao Leji, Chair of the National People's Congress.

The program included meetings and discussions with parliamentary counterparts. During discussions, the President of the Senate emphasised Australia's desire to continue stabilising bilateral ties with the People's Republic of China through open dialogue.

This report provides an account of individual meetings and site visits.

On arrival in Shanghai on Friday 11 October 2024, the delegation was officially welcomed by Ms Zhou Min, Member of the Standing Committee, National People's Congress. Ms Zhou accompanied the delegation throughout the visit program in the People's Republic of China and the delegation wish to extend their thanks to Ms Zhou for her kind support. The delegation also wishes to record its appreciation for the support provided by officers from the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the National People's Congress who escorted and assisted the delegation through the visit.

Friday 11 October 2024

Briefing by officials from Australian Consulate-General Shanghai

The delegation commenced the visit with a briefing from Mr John Williams, Consul-General and Mr John Madew, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner.

Meeting and welcome banquet hosted by Madame Huang Lixin, Chair, Shanghai Municipal People's Congress

The delegation met with Madam Huang Lixin, Chair, Shanghai People's Congress and representatives from the Congress and attended a traditional Chinese banquet welcoming the delegation. Madam Huang briefed the delegation on the work of the Congress and Shanghai's goal to become a global centre for trade and innovation.



Senator the Hon Sue Lines and Madam Huang Lixin (centre) with members of the Australian delegation and Shanghai People's Congress

Meeting with Australian Chamber of Commerce (AustCham) Shanghai representatives and members

AustCham Shanghai is the largest Australian Chamber of Commerce in the greater China region with a membership of more than 350 businesses. AustCham Shanghai members represent a breadth of sectors including manufacturing, education, financial services and tourism. The delegation and AustCham representatives discussed opportunities available to Australian business in Shanghai as well as challenges currently faced by a range of business sectors.

Saturday 12 October 2024

Visit to Baowu Steel

Baowu is a Chinese state-owned enterprise headquartered in Shanghai. It is the world's largest steel producer and one of the largest importers of Australian iron ore. The delegation received a briefing on Baowu Steel's decarbonisation work and collaboration with Australian business. At the conclusion, the delegation toured the site, visiting the control centre, hot rolling mill and the intelligent logistics warehousing centre.



The delegation meets with Baowu Steel executives

Travel to Beijing and dinner with the Australian Ambassador to China

The delegation then travelled to Beijing via high-speed train. China has an extensive high-speed rail network with regular passenger services covering the 1,200 kilometers between Shanghai and Beijing in approximately four hours.

On arrival in Beijing, the delegation attended a working dinner hosted by His Excellency Mr Scott Dewar, Australian Ambassador to China, to discuss the Australia-China bilateral relationship.

Sunday 13 October 2024

Visit to the Great Wall of China

The delegation visited the Great Wall of China at the Mutianyu site and received a guided tour. The visit included an opportunity to explore the wall and watchtowers.

Visit to the Forbidden City

The delegation visited the Forbidden City and received a guided tour on the history, significant features and cultural importance of the complex.



The delegation and HE Mr Scott Dewar, Australian Ambassador to China, at the Forbidden City

Dinner with Australian Alumni

The delegation attended dinner with Australia - China Alumni representatives. Attendees provided insights on their student experience in Australia and how Australian study has contributed to success in their chosen careers.

Monday 14 October 2024

Meeting with Madame Shen Yiqin, State Councillor

The delegation met with Madame Shen Yiqin, State Councillor and President, All-China Women's Federation and discussed Australia- China bilateral ties; the role of parliamentary exchanges in strengthening mutual understanding and different initiatives and approaches to supporting gender equality and women's empowerment.



Madame Shen Yiqin (right) greets Senator the Hon Sue Lines (left)

Visit to Goldwind

Goldwind is China's largest wind turbine manufacturing company and the second largest turbine supplier in Australia. The visit to the Goldwind campus included a tour of the manufacturing facilities and presentations on Goldwind's energy initiatives and investment in Australia.

Meeting and welcome dinner hosted by the Chairman of the National People's Congress

The delegation met with Mr Zhao Leji, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and attended a traditional banquet hosted by Chairman Zhao at the Great Hall of the People. During the meeting the President of the Senate invited Australian delegates to formally introduce themselves reflecting on the important bipartisan nature of the delegation and their collective shared interest in the Australia-China relationship. Discussion during the meeting covered the strength of people-to-people links and recent developments in the trade relationship.



The delegation meets with Mr Zhao Leji, Chairman of the National People's Congress

Tuesday 15 October 2024

Meeting with Mr Han Zheng, Vice President of the People's Republic of China

The delegation met with the Vice President of the People's Republic of China. Discussion covered parliamentary engagement and reflected on the breadth of existing Australia- China bilateral ties and acknowledged that recent increase in two-way engagement was helping to build greater mutual understanding.

Visit to the National Museum of China

During a short break between formal meetings the delegation received a guided tour of the National Museum of China. The museum houses the largest permanent exhibition of Chinese artifacts in the world with the collection spanning from the prehistoric to the modern era. A highlight was a briefing on artifacts from the terracotta army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang.

Meeting with Mr Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee

The International Department of the Chinese Communist Party is responsible for strategic foreign policy issues from a Party perspective. During the meeting the delegation discussed stabilising the bilateral relationship in line with national interests and opportunities for further dialogue.

Meeting and farewell dinner hosted by Ms Tie Ning, Vice Chair of the National People's Congress

The visit to the People's Republic of China concluded with a meeting and farewell dinner hosted by Ms Tie Ning, Vice Chair of the National People's Congress. Ms Tie Ning visited the Parliament of Australia in 2023 as a guest of the parliament and is also currently chair of the National People's Congress (NPC) China-Australia Friendship Group. Members of the NPC China-Australia Friendship Group joined the meeting and dinner. Discussion reflected on the welcome opportunity the visit had provided to build on previous engagement between the Australian and Chinese legislatures.



Senator the Hon Sue Lines meets with Ms Tie Ning, Vice Chair of the National People's Congress

Visit to Mongolia

16 October 2024

Working lunch with the Australian Ambassador to Mongolia

The visit commenced with a working lunch hosted by Her Excellency Ms Katie Smith, Australian Ambassador to Mongolia. During lunch the Ambassador provided an overview of the Australia - Mongolia relationship and the visit program.

Official welcome and meeting with the Speaker of the State Great Hural

The delegation was the first Presiding Officer led parliamentary delegation hosted by Mongolia following a Mongolian national election in July 2024. Senator the Hon Sue Lines received a ceremonial welcome and visit formalities commenced with a bilateral meeting with HE Mr Amarbayasgalan Dashzegve MP, Chair (Speaker) of the State Great Hural.



Speaker Dashzegve provided an overview of the recent election and structural reforms being sought in Mongolia. Discussion then covered the Australian Parliamentary system, education and defence cooperation and impact of climate change in Mongolia. At the conclusion of the meeting President Lines conveyed a letter of invitation to the Speaker of the State Great Hural, inviting the Speaker to lead a parliamentary delegation to visit Australia as guests of the Parliament of Australia.

Senator the Hon Sue Lines (right) is received by an honour guard at the State Palace escorted by His Excellency Mr Amarbayasgalan Dashzegve, Speaker of the State Great Hural (left).

Official Dinner hosted by the Speaker of the State Great Hural

His Excellency Mr Amarbayasgalan Dashzegve, Speaker of the State Great Hural, hosted a welcome dinner for the delegation at his official residence. The dinner included traditional Mongolian music and throat singing performances.

17 October 2024

Visit to the Women's Business Centre

The delegation visited the Women's Business Centre to learn about the Women's Climate Resilience program which is jointly funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Asia Foundation. In Mongolia, 68 per cent of micro, small and informal businesses are run by women. Presentations were provided by small business owners who had accessed support through the Women's Business Centre to establish or build their business. A presentation was also provided on the Coal-to-Solar (C2S) by Mongolian and Australian staff from URECA, the company behind the initiative. The C2S project is helping low-income families in Ulaanbaatar's *ger* (or yurt) district transition from coal to solar-powered heating systems using the financial returns from the sale of carbon credits.

Call on the President of Mongolia

His Excellency Mr Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, President of Mongolia, welcomed Senator the Hon Sue Lines and delegates to Mongolia during a call held in a ceremonial *ger* (yurt) at the State Palace. The President shared insights on Mongolia's history and spoke about recent electoral changes, geo-politics and bilateral relations as well as education links between Mongolia and Australia. At the conclusion of the call, the delegation was escorted to view a sitting of parliament where they received an acknowledgement from the Speaker during proceedings.

Lunch with the Mongolia-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group

A working lunch was hosted by His Excellency Mr Purevdorj Bukhchuluun MP, Deputy Chairman of the State Great Hural attended by parliamentarians from the Mongolia-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group.

Visit to a traditional Ger Household

The delegation visited the Bayankhoshuu District where they were hosted by two families who spoke about their experience as participants in the C2S pilot project. The switch to solar has provided a safer home environment for families by

eliminating health risks associated with coal burning fires and, it is hoped, will lead to reduced air pollution and improved air quality in Ulaanbaatar in the future.



The delegation visited a ger household.



External photo of the ger visited by the delegation showing the solar heating system.

Reception with Australian Mongolian Alumni

An evening reception provided opportunity to meet with a cross section of Australia Award and New Colombo Alumni who are affectionately known as 'Mozzies' (Mongolian Aussies). The President of the Mongolian Australia Society and graduate of the Australian National University, His Excellency Mr Tsogtbaatar Damdin MP, welcomed the delegation and reflected on the strong people-to-people links between Mongolia and Australia which were a direct result of Australian education opportunities. Attendees included Mongolian parliamentarians, public servants, business executives, legal professionals and teachers who had all studied in Australia.

Friday 18 October 2024

The delegation split into two groups on Friday 18 October 2024 with Group 1 remaining in Ulaanbaatar for an official program and Group 2 travelling to the South Gobi Desert to visit the Oyu Tolgoi mine complex.

Group 1 (Senator the Hon Sue Lines, Dr Carina Garland MP, Mr Jerome Laxale MP and Ms Zali Steggall OAM MP)

Breakfast meeting with Rio Tinto and Oyu Tolgoi Executives

A breakfast meeting with mining executives provided an opportunity for the delegation to be briefed on the Oyu Tolgoi mining project and its economic significance to Mongolia. The mine is 66 per cent owned by Rio Tinto and is one of the largest known copper and gold deposits in the world. Discussion covered business challenges and an overview of Rio Tinto's future plans for mining operations in Mongolia.

Official Opening of the Australian Embassy Mongolia

The delegation visited the Australian Embassy Mongolia to meet staff and Senator the Hon Sue Lines unveiled a plaque to mark the official opening of the Embassy in its present location.



Senator the Hon Sue Lines, President of the Senate and Ms Katie Smith, Australian Ambassador to Mongolia, at the opening of the Australian Embassy Mongolia

Visit to the National Library of Mongolia

The Australian Embassy Mongolia has partnered with the National Library of Mongolia and the Mongolian Library Association to support public and school libraries across Mongolia. During the visit to the National Library, the delegation was briefed on the 'Libraries without Borders' and 'Books to Children' projects which have seen Australian community library best practice experience shared with Mongolian librarians as well as funding provided to renovate library spaces and build children's book collections in five public schools.

Lunch with the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia

A lunch meeting with the Chief Commissioner and senior staff from the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia provided opportunity to learn about current priorities for the Commission and discuss human rights legislation and trust in government in the digital age.

Roundtable with non-government civil society organisation

The delegation met with representatives from six different non-government organisations to hear their insights and perspectives on gender equality, violence against women, disability inclusion and the LGBTQI+ community in Mongolia. Discussion included an overview of current advocacy priorities and community programs.

Ulaanbaatar International Film Festival Opening and film screening

On their final evening, members of the delegation attended a reception with members of the Australia- Mongolia business community at the opening of the Ulaanbaatar International Film Festival followed by a screening of the Australian directed Mongolian film, *'The Wolves Always Come at Night'*. The film tells the story of a young nomadic couple and was shot in Ulaanbaatar and rural Mongolia with funding assistance from Screen Australia.

Group 2: Visit to Oyu Tolgoi Mine (Hon Karen Andrews MP, Mr Sam Lim MP and Mr Keith Wolahan MP)

Group 2 delegates travelled to the South Gobi Desert to visit the Oyu Tolgoi mine for a full day program. Following a safety induction, delegates received a guided tour of the Open Pit, Underground Mine, Concentrator Facility and Bagging Plant. Delegates then joined Australian staff working at the mine for dinner to discuss their experience working in Mongolia. Many of the Australian mine staff work on a 'fly-in, fly-out' basis and are also responsible for training and mentoring Mongolian mine staff.



Delegates talk to Australian staff at the Oyu Tolgoi mine

The visit to Mongolia was very informative and the delegation wishes to record its appreciation of the hospitality extended by His Excellency Mr Amarbayasgalan Dashzegve, Speaker of the State Great Hural and thank officers of the State Great Hural for their assistance throughout the visit.

Delegation Program

Friday 11 October 2024

Arrive Shanghai

Briefing by DFAT and Austrade

Meeting with the Chair of the Shanghai People's Congress

Welcome dinner hosted by the Shanghai People's Congress

Meeting with Australian Chamber of Commerce Shanghai representatives

Saturday 12 October 2024

Visit to Baowu Steel – briefing and tour

Depart Shanghai for Beijing

Working Dinner with the Australian Ambassador to China

Sunday 13 October 2024

Visit to the Great Wall of China

Visit to the Forbidden City

Dinner with Australian Alumni hosted by the Australian Ambassador to China

Monday 14 October 2024

Meeting with the Chair of the All-China Women's Federation

Visit to Goldwind – briefing and tour

Meeting with the Chair of the National People's Congress

Welcome dinner hosted by the National People's Congress

Tuesday 15 October 2024

Meeting with the Vice President of the People's Republic of China

Visit to the National Museum of China

Meeting with the Minister for the International Department, Chinese Communist Party

Meeting and dinner with the China-Australia Parliamentary Friendship Group

Wednesday 16 October 2024

Depart for Ulaanbaatar

Working lunch and briefing with the Australian Ambassador to Mongolia and staff

Meeting and official dinner hosted by the Chairman of the State Great Hural

Thursday 17 October 2024

Visit to the Women's Business Centre – presentations and briefing

Call on the President of Mongolia

Tour of the State Palace

Lunch with the Australia-Mongolia Parliamentary Friendship Group

Visit to a traditional Ger household

Reception with Australia Awards Alumni

Friday 18 October 2024

(Group 1)

Briefing by Oyu Tolgoi and Rio Tinto representatives

Formal opening of the Australian Embassy Mongolia

Visit to the National Library of Mongolia - briefing on Australian supported projects

Friday 18 October 2024 cont'd

(Group 1 cont'd)

Working lunch with the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia

Meeting with Non-Government Organisations

Attend the Ulaanbaatar International Film Festival Opening – meeting with Australia-Mongolia business community and screening of an Australian directed Mongolian movie

(Group 2)

Site visit to the Oyu Tolgoi Mine – briefing and tour

Saturday 19 October 2024

Depart Ulaanbaatar for Australia