



Media release

The Hon Louise Asher MP

Minister for Innovation

Minister for Tourism and Major Events

Minister for Employment and Trade

Thursday 25 September 2014

Australia – China Business Council to move to Melbourne

- **Council to be part of the Victorian Government’s new International Chamber House**
- **Enhancing Melbourne’s position as Australia’s leading centre for international business**
- **Napthine Government attracting international business to Victoria**

Minister for Employment and Trade Louise Asher today announced that Australia’s premier business organisation dedicated to promoting investment and trade with China will be the first bilateral business chamber to be part of the Victorian Coalition Government’s new International Chamber House (ICH).

Ms Asher said the Australia China Business Council (ACBC) will move its head office from Sydney to Melbourne to be part of ICH, which is set to open later this year at 121 Exhibition Street in Melbourne’s CBD.

“The Napthine Government is establishing a hub for a number of bilateral international chambers and business associations, their members and visiting local and offshore business delegates,” Ms Asher said.

“The ICH initiative will encourage greater collaboration between government agencies and bilateral international chambers and business associations, as part of our strategies to facilitate trade and investment opportunities for Victorian businesses with key international markets.

“I am delighted that the ACBC has decided to be part of this initiative, which will enhance Melbourne’s position as Australia’s leading centre for international business engagement with key markets such as China,” Ms Asher said.

National ACBC President and former President of ACBC Victoria, Ian McCubbin said the ACBC is delighted to be the anchor business council for International Chamber House, where it will be co-located with the Victorian Branch of the ACBC, the foundation ACBC branch.

“Since 1973, the ACBC, through its network of 6 branches around Australia, has played an important role in the Australia-China dialogue through an exciting calendar of events, conferences, seminars and publications for its members, and deep engagement with government and industry on issues impacting on bilateral business, trade and investment.

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“We fully expect that our new home in International Chamber House will strengthen our ability to increase our contribution to the Australia-China relationship, one of the most important, long-term relationships underpinning Australian prosperity and security,” Mr McCubbin said.

Ms Asher said that ICH complements the Napthine Government’s international engagement efforts, which are spearheaded by 18 overseas Victorian Government Business Offices (VGBOs) that facilitate trade engagement and investment attraction into the state, as well as promoting high level government and business relations.

“The Coalition Government’s \$62.6 million *Victorian International Engagement Strategy* is connecting Victorian businesses with key stakeholders and opportunities in global markets through a sustained, large-scale and targeted trade and investment program.

“Since December 2010, the Government has conducted 76 trade missions, taking more than 3,100 businesses and organisations to strategic international markets, including China, India, South East Asia and the Middle East, and generating over \$4.7 billion in anticipated new trade.

“Under the strategy, Victoria’s international offices have also helped to facilitate approximately \$370 million in capital investment into the state, with investment projects supported by the VGBOs expected to generate over 2,370 new jobs in Victoria.

Media Contact: Russ Street 0498 220 005 russ.street@minstaff.vic.gov.au