

26th January 2017

Peter Stewien

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am an Australian who has spent approximately 20 years working in different countries around the world and have in that time discussed with people from most continents Australia's actions in Trade and Foreign Affairs.

I strongly believe that the actions of the current government and past Labour and Liberal governments have been following a course that is designed to allow us to expand our Trade and social links with Asian countries and especially China.

This has allowed us to grow dramatically despite those times of recession; it has also been carried out without ignoring our older European and American partners.

Despite the current actions or potential actions of the US government I believe we should continue to work to lift Trade barriers and expand our dealings with all countries including China even if we should face some condemnation from the US.

These actions may cause short term difficulties for both our citizens and companies but will in the long term serve us well. Our destiny is in our hands and should not be placed to the side just to retain the friendship of our current Allies. Our defense and trade policies should always mean that we are self reliant whatever the cost even though it is always better to have strong Allies such as the US.

It should be remembered that in our past Britain left us to fend for ourselves when they joined the European Union, the United States left us to fend for ourselves at the commencement of the Second World War and only moved to assist us when they were attacked by Japan. These events can always occur again so the more committed we are to joining with all the countries of Asia including China hopefully the more insulated we should become against such problems in the future. That does not mean leaving our traditional Allies or lowering our defense capabilities but it does mean that we cannot be subservient to them.

Regards

Peter Stewien

General Manager

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