2026 CANBERRA NETWORKING DAY

THURSDAY 15th October 2026
Canberra Networking Day Program - Main Committee Room - Parliament House

9:15am	**Registration**
9:45am – 9:50am	**Welcome** Dr David Morris, National CEO, ACBC (Morning MC)
9:50am – 10:00am	**Introduction** Rhys Roberts National President, ACBC
10:00am – 10:15am	**Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade** The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP
10:15am – 10:35am	**Ambassador of the People's Republic of China** HE Liu Jinsong
10:35am – 10:50 am	**The Renewed Case for Asia Capability** The Hon Tim Watts MP
10:50am – 11:05am	**Minister for Trade and Tourism** Senator the Hon Don Farrell
11.05am –11:25am	**Leader of the Opposition** The Hon Angus Taylor MP
11:25am – 11:40am	**Leader of the Nationals** Senator the Hon Matt Canavan
Networking and Lunch	

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12:55pm – 1:00pm	**Welcome and Introduction to the Afternoon Program** David Speers, Host, ABC *Insiders* (Afternoon MC)
1:00pm – 1:40pm	**Keynote – Executive Hot Seat: How to build China strategy** Christine Holgate AM, Group Executive Chair, Team Global Express
1:40pm – 2:10pm	**Building Boardroom Demand for China Capability** Marina Go AM, Chair, National Foundation for Australia China Relations
2:10pm – 2:50pm	**Diplomatic Dialogue** Graham Fletcher and Dr Geoff Raby AO, former Ambassadors to China
2:50pm – 3:20pm	**Lost in localisation – the challenge of adapting to the Chinese market(s)** Vaughn Barber, Chair, AustCham China; Stephen Berry, Secretary, AustCham Macau; Wayne Porritt, Global Advisory Council, AustCham Hong Kong
3:20pm – 3:40pm	**The bridge between education and business in China capability** Professor Hans Hendrischke, University of Sydney Business School; Luke Sheehy, CEO, Universities Australia; Professor Vicki Thomson, CEO, Group of Eight
3:40pm- 3:50pm	**Closing remarks** Rhys Roberts National President, ACBC
3:50pm – 4pm	Event pack down – attendees return to hotel prior to dinner

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2026
EXECUTIVE DINNER

THURSDAY 15th October 2026
Executive Dinner – National Gallery of Australia (Gandel Hall)

5:30pm	**Registration**
6:00pm	**Canberra Networking Day Toast & pre-dinner drinks** Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism Featuring Fen Jiu baijiu cocktails
7:00pm	**Dining Room Doors Open**
7:15pm – 7:20pm	**Welcome and Housekeeping** David Speers, Host ABC *Insiders (MC)*
7:20pm – 7:30pm	**Introductory remarks** Rhys Roberts, National President, ACBC
7:30pm – 7:35pm	**Australian Government host welcome** The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
7:35pm – 7:40pm	**Harmony Agriculture Introduction to Black Opal Wagyu** Anthony Fellows, CEO, Harmony Agriculture & Food Company
7:40pm – 7:45pm	**Treasury Wine Estates Tasting Notes** Imogen Gardiner, Global Director, Public Affairs, Treasury Wine Estates
7:45pm – 7:50pm	**Tasmanian Rock Lobster Introduction** Julian Harrington, CEO, Seafood Industry Tasmania
8:15pm – 8:20pm	**Introduction of Keynote Speaker** Frank McGuire, CEO, ACBC Victoria
8:20pm – 8:50pm	**Keynote: Australia – China Trade: Building on Old Success in a New Economy** Professor Ross Garnaut AC, Director, The Superpower Institute; Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Melbourne and Australian National University
8:50pm – 9:00pm	**Speaker and sponsor thanks & ACBC remarks** Dr David Morris, National CEO, ACBC
9:00pm – 9:05pm	**Closing remarks** David Speers, Host ABC *Insiders*
9:45pm – 10pm	**Pack down / Event close**

Program timings and sessions are subject to change

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