

2026 CANBERRA NETWORKING DAY

THURSDAY 15th October 2026

Canberra Networking Day Program - Main Committee Room - Parliament House

9:15am	Registration
9:45am	WELCOME MC David Speers, Host <i>Insiders</i>
9:50am – 10:00am	INTRODUCTION Rhys Roberts National President ACBC
10:00am – 10:15am	Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator the Hon. Penny Wong
10:15am – 10:35am	The Renewed Case for Asia Capability Hon Tim Watts MP
10:35am – 10:50 am	Ambassador of the People's Republic of China HE Liu Jinsong
10:50am – 11:05am	Minister for Trade Senator the Hon. Don Farrell
11.05am –11:25am	Leader of the Opposition Hon Angus Taylor MP
11:25am – 11:40am	Shadow Trade Minister & Leader of Nationals Senator the Hon. Matt Canavan
11:50am – 12:20pm	DIPLOMATIC DIALOGUE Dr Geoff Raby, AO and Graham Fletcher

Lunch

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1:20pm – 2:00pm	Keynote – Executive Hot Seat: How to build China strategy Christine Holgate AM
2:00pm – 2:40pm	Building Boardroom Demand for China Capability Marina Go AM, AICD & NFACR Chair
2:40pm – 3:10pm	Lost in localisation – the challenge of adapting to the Chinese market Jason Chang, Chair, AustCham Hong Kong, Heidi Dugan, Chair AustCham Shanghai, Vaughn Barber, Chair AustCham China
3:10pm – 3:30pm	The bridge between education and business in China capability Dr Angela Lehmann, Chair, The Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC), Vicki Thomson, CEO Group of Eight; Luke Sheehy, CEO Universities Australia
3:30pm- 3:40pm	Closing remarks Rhys Roberts National President ACBC
3:40pm – 4pm	Event pack down – attendees return to hotel prior to dinner

2026 EXECUTIVE DINNER

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

6:00pm	Registration & pre-dinner drinks Networking – including Fen Jiu baijiu cocktails
7:00pm	Dining Room Doors Open TBC
7:15pm -7:20pm	Welcome and Housekeeping MC David Speers, Host ABC <i>Insiders</i>
7:20pm-7:30pm	Introductory remarks Rhys Roberts, National President ACBC
7:30pm-7:35pm	Welcome from Naming Rights Sponsor TBC
7:35pm –7:40pm	DFAT host welcome The Hon Matt Thistlethwaite, MP
7:40pm – 7:45pm	Harmony Agriculture introduction to Black Opal wagyu Anthony Fellows, CEO
7:45pm – 7:50pm	Penfolds Wine Tasting Notes – menu intro Imogen Gardiner, Global Director, Public Affairs, Treasury Wine Estates
7:50pm – 7:55pm	Tasmanian Rock Lobster introduction Julian Harrington, CEO, Seafood Industry Tasmania
7:55pm	Dinner service starts – Main course
8:20pm-8:40pm	CEO KEYNOTE (To be announced)
8:45pm	Speaker thanks & ACBC remarks David Morris, National CEO ACBC
8:55pm	MC Closing Remarks & Dessert served (formalities conclude) David Speers, Host ABC <i>Insiders</i>
9:45pm – 10pm	Pack down / Event close

Program timings and sessions are subject to change