

MEDIA STATEMENT
PROFESSOR THE HON BOB CARR
RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS IN THE AUSTRALIAN

September 23 2016

Former Foreign Minister Bob Carr said he was proud of how he balanced relations with the US and China during his 18 months as Foreign Minister.

“In fact, the Abbott and Turnbull governments pushed relations with China further – by negotiating a Free Trade Agreement and leading Australia into the new Asian bank sponsored by China.”

Mr Carr was responding to an article in *The Australian* by Sharri Markson which he rejected as full of falsehoods.

“Sharri Markson commits the astonishing inaccuracy of saying Chau Chak Wing was the donor who helped UTS set up the Australia-China Relations Institute – when for three weeks every other media source has reported Mr Xiangmo Huang as the benefactor.

“The carelessness of facts does not end there.

“She claims I was patron of an organisation I have never met and have had no contact with, and which can barely be found on the internet.

“It is also false to say that Kurt Campbell raised concerns about any attitude to China on my part. Indeed, in 2013 in Washington he congratulated me, saying that the strategic partnership between Australia and China, negotiated by Julia Gillard, was perfectly satisfactory to Washington (see my op-ed in *The Australian* on September 10).

“Mr Chau Chak Wing, referred to in *The Australian’s* article, is a close friend of John Howard, who has praised him in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

“Markson’s article allows Peter Jennings of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute to work up criticisms of Australia-China relations without revealing his think tank receives funding from US defence companies that includes Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon.

“Jennings’ anti-China passion led him to claim the Chinese were behind the collapse of the ABS website. The Australian Government itself branded this allegation as false.

“Indeed, the Abbott and Turnbull governments have consistently rejected Jennings’ advice on China policy, including his refrain that Australia should be running patrols in the South China Sea – dismissed by Foreign Minister Bishop as something that would add to tensions.”

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