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MEDIA RELEASE

Chinese business leaders vote Australia the top

A poll of Chinese business leadership has revealed a 93 percent approval rating for Australia and made Australia top choice for investment.

The poll was commissioned by the Australia-China Relations Institute (ACRI) at UTS and conducted by the American-based Zogby Research Services.

Director of ACRI, former Foreign Minister and NSW Premier, Bob Carr said, "The poll shows Australia-China relations are running very strongly.

"Prime Minister Abbott should be very pleased with these results. They reflect the big impact on Chinese opinion of President Xi's visit to Australia in November last year. The visit climaxed with the commitment to a free trade agreement and a comprehensive strategic partnership.

"It was striking that 76 percent of Chinese were aware of this commitment to a free trade agreement.

"Eighty one percent of Chinese thought the Australian government was welcoming of closer economic ties."

The poll, conducted from February 19 to 25, surveyed 1,010 Chinese-resident business leaders defined as those who have completed university education, have at least five years of work experience and are employed at a level of department manager or above and possess home assets of more than 500,000 RMB.

The findings were:

- Australia has a 93 percent favourable rating, placing it right behind Germany and Canada, but ahead of the United States, Russia, and South Korea.
- If given the choice between visiting the United States or Australia, by a margin of two to one our Chinese respondents prefer Australia.
- While the Chinese see the U.S. educational system as having a better reputation and as better at preparing students for the 21st century world of work, Australia is rated better for cost and for providing students greater security and a better lifestyle.

- When compared with seven other countries (Canada, Germany, Russia, Singapore, New Zealand, United States, and South Korea), Australia ranks number one as the most attractive site for overseas investment opportunities.
- When compared with New Zealand, Singapore and Hong Kong, Australia is seen as the most important economic partner for China.
- And when compared with South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia, Australia is considered the most significant player in the Asia-Pacific region.

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About ACRI

In 2014 the University of Technology, Sydney established the Australia-China Relations Institute (ACRI) as a think tank to illuminate the Australia-China relationship.

Our work is based on a positive and optimistic view of Australia-China relations, capturing the spirit of the 2014 announcement of a Free Trade Agreement and the commitments by both countries to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

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