



CITY OF MELBOURNE

JUNE RECAP

City of Melbourne Nexus Delegation to China (1 – 5 June)

Councillor Andrew Rowse led a startup delegation to Australia–China Innovation Week 2026 in Shanghai and Nanjing. The visit program included several speaking engagements, bilateral meetings with government, industry and research leaders, site visits to major tech companies, and the launch of the 2026 Melbourne–Nanjing Nexus Innovation Program. The visit strengthened Melbourne’s role in trade, investment and innovation, while enhancing its global profile as a leading destination for talent and startups.

City of Melbourne C40 China Lunch (12 June)

The City of Melbourne hosted an invite-only C40 China Lunch during C40 Executive Director Mark Watts’ visit. The event convened senior China engagement leaders across government, diplomatic, corporate and finance sectors to discuss strengthening C40’s engagement in China, and explore collaboration opportunities in climate action, urban innovation, and investment.

The lunch showcased Melbourne’s strengths in China engagement and reinforce Melbourne’s position as a trusted convenor of dialogue and a leader in subnational diplomacy and multilateral engagement.

Lord Mayor’s meeting with Guangzhou Vice Mayor at World Cities Summit in Singapore (15 June)

At the recent World Cities Summit in Singapore, the Lord Mayor met with Guangzhou Vice Mayor Hu Hao for a productive bilateral meeting. Both mayors agreed to explore collaboration in many opportunities, but particularly:

- the proposed City of Melbourne business mission to South China,
- green port initiatives, and
- Melbourne universities’ participation in the Alliance of Guangzhou International Sister-city Universities (GISU)

City of Melbourne gold sponsorship on the Australia-China Innovation Summit co-hosted by ACBC and Boson Ventures

International student trends from China, with insights prepared by our International Education Team

- International student numbers from China are experiencing a pronounced, structural decline across major Western destinations, including Australia, primarily driven by policy volatility, high visa fees and economic pressures.
- China is Victoria’s second largest nationality for international enrolments. Victoria saw around 67,100 international enrolments from China in 2025, a 5% increase year-on-year but 23% below 2019 levels (around 11,100 fewer enrolments than in 2019).
- Although China is a key market for Victoria, the state is experiencing less of an impact than other states. New South Wales, the state with the largest cohort of Chinese international students in Australia, saw a 28% decline to visa lodgements from China, and Queensland saw a decline of 16%.