



CCCA

Chinese Community Council of Australia Inc
National Chinese Australian Leadership Group
Weekly Commentary/Media Release



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Did Chinese Australian voters contribute to the demise of the Morrison government?

Voice of Chinese Australains 2022-20 8 Jun 2022

We have previously in our last commentary, a preliminary post-mortem of the last Australian Federal elections held on 21 May 2022 resulting in the fall of the Morrison LNP Government. (Commentary No 19) and went to press prior to a wider reporting by MSM, other academics and think tank analysis. We now revisit the subject in response to these publications.

The MSM reporting of the role of Chinese Australians voters' response includes the following; The Guardian: "Chinese Australians say Coalition's rhetoric on Beijing could see voters 'switch from Liberal to Labor'"

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/may/20/chinese-australians-say-coalitions-rhetoric-on-beijing-could-see-voters-switch-from-liberal-to-labor>

The Guardian report focussed on Sydney's north-west electorate Bennelong (Eastwood/Rdye) with a sizeable Chinese Australian population and [internal Labor polling](#) suggests it could be winnable even though it's held by the retiring MP John Alexander with a 6.9% margin. Despite the large margin and popularity of John Alexander, the seat went to Labor, a former Mayor of Ryde, Jerome Laxale.

The SMH reported the results of a wider range of electorates where Chinese Australian voters were sizeable. "Chinese-Australian voters punished Coalition for hostile rhetoric".

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/chinese-australian-voters-punished-coalition-for-hostile-rhetoric-20220525-p5aoem.html>

"The Liberal Party suffered a massive backlash in suburbs with large numbers of Chinese-Australian voters at the federal election, a sign the Coalition paid a high price for its occasionally bellicose rhetoric and the deterioration in Australia's relationship with China. A swing away from the Liberal Party by Chinese-Australian voters played an important role in the outcome in marginal seats such as Bennelong, Reid, Parramatta and Chisholm, a booth-by-booth analysis of the election results shows."

Bloomberg – an American media even reported a cause in the shifting of then votes from Libs to Labor: Chinese Australians say Coalition's rhetoric on Beijing could see voters 'switch from Liberal to Labor' in the Melbourne suburb of Box Hill and Chisolm:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-05-17/australia-pm-morrison-s-tough-china-policy-could-backfire-in-federal-election>

"The streets of Box Hill, one of 10 suburbs that make up the Chisholm seat, are filled with Chinese medicine stores and acupuncture businesses that wouldn't be out of place on the streets of Hong Kong or Beijing. Many of the shop signs are written in both English and Chinese dialects in the suburb, which sits about a half-hour train ride from central Melbourne".



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The Hong Kong newspaper SCMP had predicted a swing against the government “Australia’s May 21 election: fight with China risks backfiring on Prime Minister Scott Morrison” and had quoted the Lowy Institute survey.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/australasia/article/3178155/australias-may-21-election-fight-china-risks-backfiring-prime>

SCMP quote; Polling conducted by the Lowy Institute found support for the government among Australians of Chinese heritage dropped 14 percentage points”

On the intellectual side, many articles have appeared in John Menadue P&I with their post-election analysis.

<https://johnmenadue.com/what-scott-did-and-what-labor-needs-to-undo-how-to-retain-the-chinese-australian-vote/>

<https://johnmenadue.com/david-goodman-and-others-an-open-letter-to-the-new-government-on-relations-with-china/>

In summary, Prof Wanning Sun has accurately reflected the sentiments of Chinese Australians pre- and post-election and is complimented by a host of academics/think tanks. These authors have described accurately the response of Chinese Australian voters but did not deal with the issue how Chinese Australians leaders communicate with the 1.4 million in their community.

Most of the emotional work on reaching Chinese Australians are the vast network which include the National Chinese Australian Leadership Group. The Chinese Australian community, albeit fragmented at most time, came together on a common mission to seek redress from the Morrison government; failing that, it would re-direct voters to the candidate that showed empathy for the collateral damages suffered by the community over the last 5 years.

However, the hurt of the collateral damages to the Chinese Australian community, the stress and the strain, can only be felt if you belong to the group.

We are not as strong as the Jewish lobby group which we hope mimic, but after two and two & half years of commentary directed at all our leaders, have paid off. This time, we were united by collateral damages from China bashing over the last 5 years. This strategy of targeting the "ethnic votes" in diverse electorates devised by ECCs NSW of the 1990s was used and it work as it did then.

We note that the articles by intellectuals and “China” think tanks, do not acknowledge or understood, the role played by Chinese Australians leaders to swing the votes to Labor, despite the fact that we are non-party political.

In resetting/rebooting the Australia-China relations, all efforts from government advisories, academics and think tanks should include their input with that of the community. However, there is a tendency of deliberately ignoring the views of the Chinese Australian community. This omission is a grave



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injustice to Chinese Australian community as the community would not take ownership of any ideas that emerged. Or it might challenge some ideas as being “armchair” and hence do not get the support of the community.

Only when an inclusive game is played, a more diverse and practical ideas and solution would emerge. Generating an opposition from the community is not a good thing as the objectives are similar but the MO is different.

Hence, our message to the fellow travellers, be inclusive and accelerate the process of repairing the soured relations between Australia and China.

We openly seek inclusion with think thanks and our national interests are best served working in collaboration rather than separately.

https://theoverseaschinesespace.quora.com/?_ni_=0&_tiids_=67210241&_filter_=all&_nsrc_=notification&_sncid_=27553515042&_snid3_=37452635524#anchor

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