



Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE

SHADOW MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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INDO-PACIFIC STABILITY SHOULD BE RAISED DURING PM's CHINA VISIT

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese should use his visit to China to advocate for stability in the Indo-Pacific, stand up for Australia's best interests and grow trade and investment between our countries.

Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator Michaelia Cash said stability in the Indo-Pacific is threatened by China undertaking a military build-up in the region.

"I note Foreign Minister Wong's recent comments acknowledging Beijing's strategic ambitions and increased military capabilities in the Indo-Pacific region," Senator Cash said.

"Those comments should be echoed by Mr Albanese to the Chinese leadership, including to President Xi Jinping, when they meet in China," she said.

"Mr Albanese should also make it clear that Australia strongly supports the US presence in the Indo-Pacific and the contribution the US makes to stability of the region," Senator Cash said.

"The Coalition wants Australia and China to have a good relationship," she said.

"We see China as an important partner, and we seek respectful engagement with the Chinese Government – and its people. But that respect must go both ways," Senator Cash said.

Earlier this year all Australians saw the reports of the Chinese Communist Party's Navy ships circumnavigating Australia.

"The way that circumnavigation occurred was not respectful. "Mr Albanese should be raising the issue with his Chinese counterparts when he visits China."

It is also incumbent on Mr Albanese to advocate at the highest levels for Dr Yang Hengjun's release from the unjust detention imposed on him.

Mr Albanese should be using this visit as an opportunity to improve market access for Australian exporters, particularly agricultural exports.

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