# Chinese Premier Li Qiang Visits Australia to Strengthen Bilateral Ties, Announces Panda Loan



On Sunday, Chinese Premier Li Qiang visited Australia to emphasize positive aspects of the bilateral relationship amid calls to set aside differences. He arrived in Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, on Saturday night. His trip is the first by a Chinese premier to Australia in seven years, signaling improved relations since the election of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's center-left Labor Party in 2022.

During his visit to Adelaide Zoo, home to giant pandas Wang Wang and Fu Ni since 2009, Li announced that China would loan two new pandas to the zoo after the current pair return to China in November. This announcement was well-received, marking a symbol of goodwill.

Li's visit follows the lifting of significant trade tariffs by China in March, reviving Australian wine trade which had been halted since 2020. His agenda includes meetings in Adelaide, Canberra, and Western Australia, touching on various topics including trade, security, and critical minerals.

Li's visit aims to stabilize relations following a strained period marked by disputes over foreign interference, security concerns related to Huawei, and Australia's push for an investigation into the origins and handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Penny Wong, Australia's Foreign Minister, underscored the importance of addressing ongoing issues while enhancing bilateral cooperation.

Li will depart for further engagements in Malaysia after his Australian tour.