
**1 RYDE-CHINA BUSINESS AND TRADE FORUM 2015 - Councillor
Craig Chung**

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The City of Ryde will soon sign a new Friendship Agreement with the City of Dongguan in the Republic of China.

To celebrate and support the signing of this agreement, the City of Ryde should take the opportunity to further enhance its relationship with China and the local Chinese business community.

Long-term, sustainable connections with Asia are a priority for the Ryde and Macquarie Park economies. Ryde enjoys strong economic ties to China as well as civic, social, educational and cultural links. These connections will be further strengthened with the signing of the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement later this year.

The signing of the Friendship Agreement with the City of Dongguan provides an opportunity to celebrate and showcase our business connections with China, through the establishment of a new event – the inaugural Ryde-China Business and Trade Forum 2015. The Forum will provide a platform for Ryde businesses to forge links with Australia's top trading partner and the world's second largest economy.

MOTION:

I move that Council:

- (a) Host a new event in the City of Ryde, the Ryde-China Business and Trade Forum 2015.
- (b) Seek sponsorship opportunities with interested stakeholders including, but not limited to, the Ryde Business Forum, members of the Macquarie Park Forum, local Chambers of Commerce, Ryde Economic Development Advisory Committee and Macquarie University.
- (c) Approach relevant China related groups and institutes such as the China Studies Centre (USYD) China Australian Forum, Chinese Consulate, CAMP and Confucius Institute to assist Council with the planning and delivery of the event.
- (d) Investigate hosting the event in early November 2015 to align with the annual Sydney-China Business Forum to attract visiting business and government delegations to Ryde.
- (e) Request the Economic Development Advisory Committee form a sub-committee to assist staff with developing the event.

Council, dated 23 July 2015, submitted on 28 July 2015.