Tel. +64 9 379 4641 | Level 13, 51 Shortland Street
Auckland 1140
New Zealand
Email: info@nzchinacouncil.org.nz
www.nzchinacouncil.org.nz

. 3

It is vital during a period of increasing uncertainty to continue to make decisions carefully, and to also ensure these decisions are communicated appropriately and constructively. In an increasingly polarised world, we must also continue to value and protect New Zealand's traditional bipartisan approach to international affairs.

High level engagement remains an important key to maintaining and fostering the relationship, and is instrumental in promoting understanding. It is positive that leaders from both countries have kept dialogue open throughout this period. Several ministers visited China in the second half of 2019, and high level engagement continued during Covid-19 via electronic means. As soon as we are able, we will need to prioritise recommencing in-person engagement.

We must also focus on developing a clear strategy for re-engaging with China post pandemic. Recent calls to diversify our trading relationships are valid. Trading a

---

[1] https://statisticsnz.shinyapps.io/trade_dashboard/
[2] https://www.stats.govt.nz/reports/new-zealand-now-overseas-trade-at-september-2020
[3] https://www.beehive.govt.nz/speech/speech-notes-prepared-china-business-summit