



Australian Journal of Political Science >

Volume 54, 2019 - Issue 3

1,151 | 2

Views | CrossRef citations to date | 1 Altmetric

Articles

The dragon versus the kangaroo: perceptions of Chinese and Australian influence and development assistance in Vanuatu

Matthew Clarke & Simon Feeny

Pages 334-354 | Accepted 31 Mar 2019, Published online: 21 May 2019

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/10361146.2019.1617237>

Check for updates



Full Article

Figures & data

References

Citations

Metrics

Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

Share

ABSTRACT

China's engagement within the South Pacific has increased dramatically in recent years mainly through significant increases in development assistance. Development assistance is provided to address humanitarian needs but to also secure national interests of the donor. This paper examines the extent and nature of Australia's and China's influence in Vanuatu from the perspectives of the Ni-Vanuatu people using new data. China is perceived as having the most influence in the country despite Australia's development assistance being viewed far more positively. Support for infrastructure is the most important factor contributing to a positive image for both countries. Perceptions of land grabbing are the main factor contributing to negative images. Regional differences in perceptions of Australia and China across Vanuatu also exist.

International Journal of Politics, Law and Global Studies
Volume 10, Number 1, March 2023
ISSN: 2638-220X

KEYWORDS:

Soft power Australia China Vanuatu development assistance

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

Notes on contributors

Alfred Deakin Professor Matthew Clarke is the Head of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Deakin University.

Professor Sim Feeny is Professor of Development Economics in the School of Economic, Finance and Marketing at RMIT University.

Notes

1. Some of the questions, with permission, come directly from Afrobarometer ([2016](#)).

Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
2

Information for

Authors

R&D professionals

Editors

Librarians

Societies

Opportunities

Reprints and e-prints

Advertising solutions

Accelerated publication

Corporate access solutions

Open access

Overview

Open journals

Open Select

Dove Medical Press

F1000Research

Help and information

Help and contact

Newsroom

All journals

Books

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources
by email

 Sign me up

  

  

Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited Privacy policy Cookies Terms & conditions

Accessibility



Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG