

22 March, 2021

Editor

Australian Financial Review

Email: edletters@afr.com.au

Dear Editor,

I write to clarify misunderstandings in your article entitled “China breaks Hong Kong’s democracy” published on 13 March 2021.

The Decision by the National People’s Congress (NPC) on improving the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) follows the fundamental principles of upholding “one country, two systems” and HKSAR’s constitutional order. It safeguards people’s right to vote and stand for election. After recent social unrest and political turmoil, the Decision is a timely and necessary move to preserve Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability under the “one country, two systems” principle.

In recent years, radical and violent elements attempted to hijack the political process in Hong Kong, seriously disrupt the vital work of the Legislative Council (LegCo), advocate independence and sow chaos in society. These seriously undermined the stability and prosperity of our city.

The Decision by the NPC is constitutionally and legally sound. It will plug the loopholes in our electoral system. There is no question of rolling back Hong Kong’s democracy. The adjustments to the size and composition of the Election Committee and the LegCo mean that there is an increase of some 25% to 28% of members, and hence a broader representation overall. The additional sector and constituency will also provide a more balanced political participation, definitively a positive move for the electoral system in the HKSAR. Articles 45 and 68 of the Basic Law of the HKSAR, which stipulate respectively the ultimate aim of the selection of the Chief Executive and the election of all LegCo members by universal suffrage, remain intact.

The Decision is essential for Hong Kong to get back on the right track and forge ahead. Hong Kong will continue to be a free and open city underpinned by the rule of law.

Yours sincerely,

Winnie Chan

Director

(Representative to Australia and New Zealand)

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Sydney

Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region