

## **President extending the friendship with Beijing**

I am a greater supporter of developing and continuing our relationship with China. As such, I recently hosted official guests from Beijing. Together with Dr Neville Green, President of the Australia China Friendship Society (ACFS) WA Branch, and Dr Wally Frick, Vice President of ACFS WA Branch, we met with Mr Qing Boming, the Deputy Director General of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Department of American and Oceanian Affairs.

The meeting was very important because it was a chance to meet with Mr Boming and form an ongoing relationship with the ACFS. Mr Qing is responsible for arranging the visit of Chinese official delegations to all Australian States and also arranging visits of official Australian delegations to China. Mr Boming has previously hosted members of the WA parliament in Beijing. Mr Boming will be able to assist any future delegation visits to China.

The CPAFC is an extended arm of the Department of Foreign Affairs of China and holds an important role. I stress the importance Western Australia places upon friendly exchanges with China, Western Australia's most important trading partner.

Mr Boming enjoyed a guided tour of Parliament. It was a pleasure to discuss with Mr Boming the important work the Legislative Council carries out as a 'House of Review'. Mr Boming was impressed with the recent refurbishment of the Chamber.



Picture: The President, the Hon. Barry House, with Mr Qing Boming, Deputy Director-General from the Department of American and Oceanian Affairs.