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HD **CHINESE** BUYERS LIFT THE STAKES
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DEALS THE value of **Chinese** takeover deals in Australia has surged since the start of the year as domestic **mining** projects continue to lure buyers.

New research shows the value of merger and **acquisition** activity carried out by **Chinese** investors soared 42 per cent to \$2.4 **billion** in the six months to June, compared with the previous six months.

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The resources sector accounted for 88 per cent of the value of the deals, according to a report by accountancy heavyweight PricewaterhouseCoopers.

But it was dominated by **Chinese** investors moving to increase existing shareholdings in miners.

PwC Deals Asia leader Andrew Parker said it was too soon to suggest **Chinese** investment in Australian **mining** assets had bounced back after a flat two years.

"The fact these deals are strategic moves by existing shareholders — combined with easing commodity prices and a persistently high Australian dollar — argues against calling any general turnaround in **Chinese** interest in resource sector investment," Mr Parker said.

Guangdong Rising Assets Management's proposed takeover of Brisbane-based Laos **copper** and **gold** producer PanAust is at the top of the table of major deals, at \$1.06 **billion**.

Mr Parker said that beyond resources, **Chinese** buyers were seeking value in the agriculture, health and consumer sectors.

On Monday, two **Chinese** investment groups established a \$3 **billion** fund to invest in Australian agriculture.

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GREAT WALL OF MONEY **China** still digging deep for Aussie assets THE MAJOR DEALS
PanAust \$1.06bn Aquila Resources \$1.04bn WestSide \$164m Park Hyatt Melbourne (pictured)
\$114m Six months to June 2014

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