Scott Morrison will legislate to tear up Victoria’s multi-million-dollar Belt and Road Initiative agreement with Beijing, creating laws that will also ban a raft of other deals with foreign governments found to be against the ­national interest.

In an unprecedented move against Chinese interference and the protection of state secrets, the use of external powers under the Constitution to direct state, territory and local governments on ­national security issues will effectively kill dozens of agreements with foreign governments and ­institutions.

The Foreign Relations Bill, which will be introduced to parliament next week, also extends to universities and captures any questionable agreements between Australian public institutions and foreign governments.

In a major flexing of its constitutional powers, the Morrison government will cast its net over all foreign relations agreements struck by lower tiers of government, amid fears that national security has been compromised by often secret deals between state governments and foreign powers.

The move could have rippling effects for the private sector, with the Foreign Minister given powers to review any private infrastructure contracts that a state government signed as part of a BRI agreement with China.

The list of agreements that could be scrapped under the proposed legislation will range from sister city agreements, popular with local governments, to memorandum of understanding deals and include all legally and non-­legally binding arrangements.

Despite persistent warnings from the Morrison government and security agencies, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews last year signed up to President Xi Jinping’s BRI program, which has been used across the globe to exert China’s soft-power reach.

The Victorian government’s BRI deal, which followed earlier MOUs and agreements with China, deepened co-operation between the state and Beijing on ­infrastructure, innovation and trade development.

Mr Morrison said Australia’s foreign policies and relationships “must always be set to serve Australia’s interests”.

“One of the most important jobs of the federal government is to protect and promote Australia’s national interest,” the Prime Minister said. “It is vital that when it comes to Australia’s dealings with the rest of the world we speak with one voice and work to one plan.”

Mr Morrison — whose calls for an independent investigation into the origins of COVID-19 and pushback against foreign interference and state-based cyber ­attacks have sparked anger in China — added: “Australians rightly expect the federal government they elect to set foreign ­policy. These changes and new laws will ensure that every ­arrangement done by any Australian government at any level now lines up with how we are working to protect and promote Australia’s national interest.”

Mr Morrison said where any agreement with foreign governments and institutions undermined the commonwealth’s efforts to protect the national ­interest they could be cancelled.

The crackdown on collaboration with foreign powers follows a security briefing the Prime Minister and ASIO gave national cabinet leaders three weeks ago on the sovereign threat posed by China.

The laws, which exclude commercial corporations and state-owned enterprises, are expansive and cover any arrangements ­already in existence with other foreign governments. Universities and state, territory and local governments will be forced to undertake stocktakes of all existing agreements and have them vetted by Foreign Minister Marise Payne. All future agreements they seek to enter will also be vetted and open to being refused or cancelled.

In addition to establishing a public register to make arrangements with foreign powers transparent, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will review existing and new arrangements and ­advise Senator Payne on the implications for foreign policy settings.

State and territory governments, including departments and agencies, councils and universities must have their stocktake of agreements with foreign powers finalised within six months of the Foreign Relations Bill being brought into law.

The bulk of Australian government and university arrangements with overseas powers are linked to co-operation with foreign government-linked research institutes, universities, municipalities, states and departments in the areas of science, tourism, trade, infrastructure, education, culture and health.

In addition to China, other foreign partnerships entered into by states, territories, councils and universities — including agreements with organisations and governments in Iran, India, Russia, Israel, the US, South Korea, Singapore, Afghanistan and other countries — will be audited by DFAT.

Senator Payne said it was vital for “Australia’s prosperity, security and sovereignty” that foreign policy was driven by the national interest.

“There is currently no legislative requirement, nor clear understanding, that states and territories consult properly with the commonwealth on arrangements with foreign governments,” Senator Payne said.

“These changes will provide governments, institutions and the Australian people with confidence that due diligence is given to international arrangements to ensure they are consistent with our ­national interest and our values.”

The Morrison government’s new laws, responding to concerns raised by security agencies over ­research theft and espionage, are expected to attract criticism from Beijing and the university sector which rely heavily on international collaboration.

According to an analysis of research collaborations by the Australia-China Relations Institute, China was set to surpass the US as the leading research partner of Australian academics for the first time this year.

The Victorian government’s non-legally binding framework agreement with Beijing, signed last October, set up a joint working group co-chaired by Mr Andrews and China’s National Development and Reform Commission vice-chairman Ning Jizhe. Both sides agreed to maintain close communication and meet twice a year.

The framework set out the goal of increasing Chinese participation in the Victorian infrastructure rollout and allowing Chinese companies to establish a greater presence in the state. Victoria also agreed to send regular delegations of infrastructure companies and officials to China.

A “co-operation road map” was expected to have been completed by mid-2020 and signed by both sides, with further road maps to follow.