

Commissioner Keelty – a new face on power list

This year's Australian Financial Review's list of Australia's most powerful people includes Commissioner Mick Keelty among those the magazine considers exercise overt, covert or cultural power in this country.

Commissioner Mick Keelty joins a range of prominent politicians, judges and corporate figures on the list. Over the years, the power edition has reflected a changing of the guard, those on the rise and new faces worthy of a placing.

In August, a panel of 12 leading experts including former NSW Premier Nick Greiner and the Dean of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government Professor Allan Fels, analysed last year's recipients to decide whether any had dropped a notch and who should be defined among the most powerful Australians in 2007.

In the overt listing, the former prime minister John Howard was named Australia's most powerful person, followed by the now Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Commissioner Keelty was ranked seventh after the Chief Justice of the High Court, Murray Gleeson, and before Australian Council of Trades Union Chief Sharan Burrow.

Other well-known figures on this year's list from business, politics and the cultural arena included the Governor of the Reserve Bank Glenn Stevens; media magnate Rupert Murdoch; and Professor Loane Skene for embryonic stem cell research.

The expert panel said that the ongoing



Photo: Kate Bradstreet

AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty at the photo exhibition in Sydney.

spectre of terrorism is one of the reasons Commissioner Keelty is now seen as an overtly powerful figure.

"Terrorism, security, that's one of the big issues," panellist Roger Wilkins said. "And Keelty is actually wielding quite a lot of influence on policy as well as operations in this country."

The Commissioner's contribution was also acknowledged by the AFR's sister publication, *Boss Magazine*, which recently recognised him as one of 25 leaders in the country who were making a difference in their respective fields.

During October, selected portraits, including one of Commissioner Keelty, were featured in a photographic exhibition organised by the AFR and displayed at the ABN-AMRO Tower in Sydney.

As *Platypus* went to press, *The Bulletin* announced its 100 most powerful people in Australia for 2007. Commissioner Keelty was named in the top ten in the government category and joined other well-known figures including Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet Secretary Dr Peter Shergold, Australian Defence Force Chief Angus Houston, and NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet Director-General Robyn Kruk just to name a few.

Professor Fels judged the government category and said the ranking recognised the Commissioner's contribution to the expansion of the AFP in the areas of international responsibilities, counter terrorism, protective security and airport security.

OVERT POWER

01

JOHN HOWARD

02

KEVIN RUDD

03

PETER COSTELLO

04

GLENN STEVENS

05

RUPERT MURDOCH

06

MURRAY GLEESON

07

MICK KEELTY

08

SHARAN BURROW

09

PETER BEATTIE

10

WAYNE SWAN