

16 September 2009

NEW AUSTRAC CEO APPOINTED

Minister for Home Affairs Brendan O'Connor today announced the appointment of Mr John Schmidt to the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC).

Mr Schmidt's five-year term as CEO of Australia's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regulator and financial intelligence unit will commence on 17 September.

"AUSTRAC plays a critical role in protecting Australia's national security by providing our law enforcement and intelligence agencies with the information they need to combat terrorism and serious organised crime," Minister O'Connor said.

"The Government has confidence that Mr Schmidt has the skills and experience to guide AUSTRAC in its essential regulatory and intelligence roles.

"Mr Schmidt has had a long career across both the New South Wales and Commonwealth Public Service that will equip him well for this important leadership role."

Mr Schmidt previously held senior roles in the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and the NSW Cabinet Office.

"Under Mr Schmidt's leadership AUSTRAC will be well placed to build upon its success to date in both the collection and analysis of financial intelligence, and the regulation of Australia's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing laws," Mr O'Connor added.

Media Contact: Christian Taubenschlag 0438 595 567