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Senior policeman Mick Willing to leave NSW Police Force

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One of three leading contenders for the job of NSW Police Commissioner has abruptly quit the force after missing out on the position last month, ending a lengthy career that included senior positions at the Homicide Squad and Counter Terrorism command.

Deputy Commissioner Michael Willing, one of the highest ranking officers in the organization, ended duties on Wednesday, just weeks after Premier Dominic Perrottet announced rival candidate Karen Webb to lead the police force.

Ms Webb confirmed the departure to The Australian, saying: “I wish to advise Deputy Commissioner Michael Willing APM served his last day with the New South Wales Police Force yesterday, Wednesday 19 January 2022.

“I’d like to take this opportunity to wish Mick and his family all the best in their future endeavours, and thank him for his service.”

Mr Willing rose to prominence as the longest-serving commander of the NSW Homicide Squad where he oversaw numerous significant investigations, including the Lindt Café terrorism siege, the search for former fugitive Malcolm Naden, and a Quakers Hill nursing home that resulted in the deaths of 14 residents.

He has been contacted for comment.

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Under outgoing Commissioner Mick Fuller, Mr Willing was promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Counter Terrorism and Special Tactics Command, and in June last year to the position of Deputy Commissioner with carriage of field operations.

That position saw him routinely interact with NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and other senior government MPs during a period when the state endured daily Covid-19 press conferences and lockdowns across the state.

Mr Willing was tipped as a favourite to succeed Mr Fuller under Ms Berejiklian's leadership; her government had earlier appointed him to the position of lead recovery co-ordinator in the aftermath of the 2019-20 'black summer' bushfires.

It is understood that numerous supporters of Mr Willing privately lobbied Mr Perrottet to elevate him to the job of Commissioner.

YONI BASHAN, MARGIN CALL EDITOR

Yoni Bashan is the editor of the agenda-setting column Margin Call. He began his career at The Sunday Telegraph and has won multiple awards for crime writing and specialist investigations. In 2014 he was seconded o... [Read more](#)



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