

Arndt allowed to keep honour

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COMMENTATOR and men's rights advocate Bettina Arndt will keep her Australia Day honour, the Council for the Order of Australia has ruled.

Her award was reviewed following public outcry, however the Council on Friday said she would retain the title.

Victoria's Attorney-General Jill Hennessy was among those who called for Ms Arndt to be stripped of the honour.

Ms Hennessy said she was "alarmed" and "concerned" Ms Arndt was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia — Australia's third-highest civic honour.

Council chairman Shane Stone said in a statement on Friday: "In a system that recognises the service of hundreds of people each year, it is inevitable that each list will include some people who others be-

lieve should not be recognised."

The statement added: "Individuals are neither qualified nor disqualified on the basis of their political leanings, social views or religious convictions."

Commentator and author Mike Carlton's appointment to the Order of Australia was also reviewed but he was also spared having his honour cancelled.