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## Calls for Taronga Zoo welfare chief to resign

Erik Jensen  
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THE chairman of Taronga Zoo's conservation and welfare committee, Anthony English, has been called on to resign after it emerged he was an advocate of game hunting in NSW.

The Greens and Animal Liberation NSW both called on Dr English to resign from the committee yesterday, saying there was a conflict of interests between his advisory role at the Game Council NSW and at the zoo. "He is unsuited to further the conservation aims of the zoo, given his strong support for conservation hunting," said the Greens' spokeswoman on animal welfare, Lee Rhiannon.

The call comes after the *Herald* revealed Taronga Western Plains Zoo, near Dubbo, **sold endangered blackbucks antelope** from Western Plains to a member of the Shooters' Party who would move to hunt the species in an enclosed game reserve under legislation before the NSW Parliament.

Western Plains Zoo confirmed yesterday that it had sold 82 blackbuck and five bison to seven private parks in NSW since 2004.

The zoo's general manager, Matt Fuller, would not be interviewed by the *Herald* but told the ABC the animals could not be hunted in NSW.

"We would never sell animals or trade animals with any individual which would ultimately mean they would be hunted for trophies," he said.

Dr English, who is a member of the Order of Australia and participated in the 2020 Summit, would not be interviewed by the *Herald* about his involvement in the sales or his support for conservation game hunting.

A colleague on the conservation and welfare committee, Professor Richard Kingsford, said the ideals of private game reserves and public zoos could not be reconciled - although he would not comment directly on Dr English's views. "I just can't see what the value of that would be in a conservation sense."

*This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/calls-for-taronga-zoo-welfare-chief-to-resign-20090806-ebjg.html>*

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