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## Questions over Game Council contract tender

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### EXCLUSIVE

THE State Government is under pressure to undertake a full audit of the Game Council after revelations that it awarded a key tender to a company its chairman had run for 10 years.

Robert Borsak was founding director of DesignBais before it won the tender to host and design the council's game-licensing system.

Mr Borsak left the company two years before the contract was awarded, but the director and majority shareholder at the time was Mr Borsak's longtime business associate James Armstrong, with whom he had sat on at least 15 boards.

"It's a caricature of everything that's wrong in NSW," the Opposition spokesman on the environment, Catherine Cusack, said of the council. "Every single aspect of budget compliance has been breached by the Game Council, with no consequences."

The Minister for Primary Industries, Ian Macdonald, defended the process. "The Government does not believe an audit is necessary and does not have concerns that a conflict of interest for the chair exists," he said. "Robert Borsak is well qualified for his current role as chair of Game Council NSW and has extensive financial management and hunting industry skills and knowledge."

A Game Council spokesman said Mr Borsak had excused himself from the tender process, and the Independent Commission Against Corruption had investigated the matter. However, the commission refused to say whether that was true and there is no public record of any such inquiry.

"The commission cannot confirm or deny whether it did carry out an inquiry," a spokeswoman for ICAC said. "No public reports or inquiries were carried out."

The Game Council refused to say how many companies tendered for the contract or what the contract was worth. Mr Borsak and Mr Armstrong were co-directors of a company called Advantage Premium Finance when the tender was confirmed. They have since joined each other on the board of the Great Australian Software Company and, since 1986, have sat on at least 13 other boards together.

Two more current directors of DesignBais, Ann Polich and Andrew Morris, sat with Mr Borsak and Mr Armstrong on the board of B.A. Insurance Systems until two years before they won the tender.

Ms Cusack called for an audit of the council's operations and said: "The governance arrangements for the Game Council, the administration of tenders, their relationship to the Shooters' Party - there's just nothing like it in Australia. There is just not even a pretence of proper management."

Mr Borsak, who is paid \$342 by the Government each day the council sits, could not be reached yesterday. Mr Armstrong did not return calls from the *Herald*.

This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/questions-over-game-council-contract-tender-20090813-ejya.html>

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