



14 July 2011

New Zealand Handloaders Association  
PO Box 5497  
Papanui  
Christchurch

Dear Sir/Madam

**Regarding the use of firearms upon Public Access Environment Canterbury  
Regional Council Land.  
*Including the Waimakariri River Regional Park (WRRP) and Ashley River  
Rakahuri Regional Park***

Environment Canterbury Parks Staff over the past several months have been experiencing increasing encounters where members of the public are apparently being directed by various agencies including, Club, Police & Outdoor Retailers, to the Waimakariri & Ashley Riverbeds, to make use of firearms.

This is causing an upsurge of damage to park facilities, creating mess, and most importantly escalating safety issues as the number of park visitors' increase.

We must manage the parks carefully to make sure that all users are catered for without conflict, or damage occurring to the environment and or park infrastructure

The Environment Canterbury Regional Parks Policy regarding firearms use by the public is that...

**“Only Fish & Game Licensed Gamebird Hunters with shotguns are permitted in areas where Hunting is allowed”**

The sighting in of rifles, general target shooting, clay bird shooting and rabbit/pest shooting activities are strictly prohibited within all public access areas by members of the public.

A reasonable alternative for potential shooters is that a number of Hunting & Shooting Clubs lease land within the WRRP from Environment Canterbury at McLean's Island. They offer a range of firearms experiences for their members and in some cases non-members.


We recognise the important role that you play in providing information to the firearms community and in promoting safe firearms use for recreation.

We ask and would appreciate your assistance & co-operation in educating your staff, club members and the general public.

Enclosed are brochures you may wish to circulate containing our guidelines within the WRRP about "Hunting Areas & Access". More can be obtained by contacting our Parks team.

Further information can be found on our website ([www.ecan.govt.nz/waimakpark](http://www.ecan.govt.nz/waimakpark)), Or contact the Environment Canterbury Parks Team on 03 353 9007

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Owen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David Owen  
ECan Parks team leader