

From: [ECInfo](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: Long-Term Plan submission form [#103] EMAIL:05270800
Date: Monday, 13 April 2015 9:12:52 a.m.
Importance: Low

----- Original Message -----

From: Ledgard Nick
Received: 12/04/2015 9:52 p.m.
To: ECInfo; Environment Canterbury; Services Customer; Services Customer;
Webmaster@ecan.govt.nz
Subject: Long-Term Plan submission form [#103]

Your name *	Nick Ledgard
Your organisation and role in it (if applicable)	BRaid (braided river aid)Chairman
Address *	
Postcode	
Contact phone number *	
Mobile number	
Email	
Date	Sunday 12 April 2015
Tick the box if you wish to discuss your submission in person	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

Your submission

The ownership of off-road motorised transport (4WD vehicles, ATVs and trailbikes) is increasing, and with that the pressure to use them on Canterbury's braided riverbeds. On the plains, away from the coast, these riverbeds are unique places; they are the only surviving indigenous ecosystems which still retain important elements of their original state. Everything else surrounding them is introduced, ie., was not here 200 years ago. The most obvious present-day component of the braided river ecosystems are native birds - endangered species such as the wrybill, the black-fronted tern and the black-billed gull. They are all taonga to local iwi. Populations of these species are declining, due to introduced predators, weed invasion and human disturbance. The presence of motorised vehicles and bikes causes significant disturbance (keeping birds away from feeding sites and nests, running over eggs and chicks), and threatens the future existence of these indigenous species. By restricting their use in braided rivers, a prime goal of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy is met 'implementing actions to correct the decline of useable braided river bird habitat.'

In addition, are we wise to allow vehicles to drive through waterways, where water quality is valued for recreational use - swimming, fishing, even drinking. Is there another developed country in the world where such unrestricted use is permitted - let alone allowed to be increasing?

This submission urges ECan to restrict the use of motorised vehicles and bikes on the braided rivers of our region.

What do you want Environment Canterbury to do?

We urge ECan to restrict the future use of off-road vehicles and bikes on braided riverbeds. The first step is always to improve awareness of the problems associated with such use – both through the usual educational and media outlets and by on-river signage. The second step is physical prevention through blocking of access ways at important sites. Although there is an extreme element of off-road enthusiast who will always pose a problem, such initiatives will stop the majority of riverbed driving instances. They will also prepare the way for regulation, and enhance the likelihood of its success, should that be considered needed in the future. In summary, we request ECan to budget an annual amount for reducing the use of braided rivers by motorised vehicles. The fund would be used to

- a) Prepare and deliver information targeted at the appropriate end-user groups, plus the general public.
- b) Make and erect practical signage on rivers.
- c) Create barriers to prevent motorised access into riverbeds.