

2018 tests show lead in ducks

ANTI-DUCK hunting activists have claimed 2018 tests showed lead levels above food safety guidelines in ducks at Serpentine Creek.

Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting say the test results were in documents released under Freedom of Information.

However, local hunters told the Loddon Herald they disputed the small sample used in testing and the absence of recent tests.

RVODS project manager Sue Williams: "The danger to our wildlife and human populations of toxic lead ammunition, is just another reason why Victoria needs to ban the recreational shooting of ducks and quail as other states have done

"The fact that ducks were

found to have toxic lead levels outside food safety guidelines in about 20 per cent of a small number of wetlands surveyed, and that ducks fly, suggests this danger is frighteningly widespread."

"It is simply unfathomable that the government has not issued any public warnings about the lead levels found in ducks across our state.

"Four recreational duck and quail shooting seasons have been allowed to proceed since the lead levels were first identified."

According to the documents, the higher lead levels were found at four of 23 Victorian public waterways - Serpentine Creek Richardson's Lagoon, Heart Morass and Macleod Morass.