

A guide for Auckland farmers when disposing of culled chicken and related waste impacted by avian influenza (AI).

August 2025

Introduction

This guide has been prepared for you by the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand and Harrison Grierson.

Inside this guide you'll find information on:

- Disposal Options for your region
- General advice and recommendations
- Who to talk to if you have questions
- Regional rules to consider

Recommendations

1. Offsite disposal (landfills)
2. Composting – will need consent.
3. Offal pit – will need consent.

Estimates

We estimate the following volumes and weights for carcasses + associated waste for 10,000 birds. This is important to consider when assessing disposal options. More estimates are attached at the back.

Layer = 29 tonnes and 35m³ Broiler = 64t and 72m³

Offsite disposal

Not all landfills will accept culled chickens or bird flu-impacted waste. These landfills have indicated that they may accept this waste. Landfills will be responsible for obtaining the appropriate approvals.

Redvale Landfill

P: 021 953 755 (Glen Jujnovich)

E: GJujnovich@wm.nz

A: 1627 East Coast Road, Redvale

Whitford Landfill

P: 021 953 755 (Mike Winterbottom)

E: mwinterbottom@wm.nz

A: 301 Whitford-Maraetai Road, Auckland

Puwera Landfill

E: 027 258 0532 (Andrew Sclater)

E: andrew.sclater@northlandwaste.co.nz

A: Off SH1 8km south of Whangarei

Landfill disposal key steps

1. Contact landfill operators

- Contact the landfill operator as soon as possible.
- Landfill operators will need to comply with the MPI Landfill Guide.

2. Estimate

- The estimates provided offer a useful starting point, but farmers should calculate more precise figures based on the age and specific conditions of their population

3. Organise transport

- Trucks must be sealed and lined. Skips that are sealed and won't need lining, just lidding.
- No leakage must be able to occur during transportation.
- Transporters will need to comply with the MPI transport guide

4. Submit Permitted Waste Application

- Applications to landfill facilities need to be made and approved prior to disposing of special waste. These cost from \$80+.
- Approval of applications depends on the level of detail provided up front.

Onsite Disposal

Chicken farms meet the definition of a primary processor and therefore require consent for on-site offal pit disposal. Getting a resource consent can take many months. For this reason, we recommend farmers first seek disposal that does not require consent, such as off-site disposal at landfill.

If you will dispose of waste onsite, start your consent application process ASAP.

Composting

Composting will require resource consent; farmers should check with Regional Council first. Composting will be impacted by temperature and rainfall; therefore, we recommend that **indoor composting** be sought. The MPI Composting Guidelines for managing AI must be complied with.

Pros

- Leachate can be managed better for indoor composting
- May be more affordable than landfill disposal
- Provides another option where offal pit requirements can't be met.

Cons

- Increased health and safety risk due to ongoing exposure.
- Minimum 30 days to complete – this will increase the time until farmers can return to normal operation.
- Takes time to obtain a consent.
- Consider how you will dispose of or use the final product before you decide to compost – off-site use may be limited due to perception.

Consenting

- Will require a resource consent from Regional Council for large scale composting activities, >100 m³ (indoor).
- We recommend you contact a planner, details are provided overleaf.

Considerations

- The composting material must reach temperatures of 55 degrees Celsius
- Odour and leachate must be contained.
- Specialised equipment and extra staff may be required.

Useful Contacts

Name	Role	Number	Email
Auckland Council	Planner	09 301 0101	planninghelpdesk@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
Hali Hoskin (author)	Environmental Consultant	+64 9 2126468	h.hoskin@harrisingrierson.com
Mary McConnell	Planner	+64 3 421 6196	m.mcconnell@harrisingrierson.com
Alderson Poultry	Transport	0275778287	Bryan.Mills@alderson.co.nz
Enviro NZ	Transport	027 509 6432	Cullum.penman@environz.co.nz
N & J Wood	Transport	027 460 3223	Accounts@njwood.co.nz
Northland Waste Ltd	Transport	027 258 0532	Andrew.slater@northlandwaste.co.nz
Core Technology Trucking Limited	Transport	022 602 0057	coretechtruck@yahoo.com
NZ Safety Blackwoods	PPE Supplier	027 261 6397	kate.hong@nzsafetyblackwoods.co.nz

Attachment

Auckland Unitary Plan

This guide has only considers the relevant rules from the Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part). These rules are summarised below. Refer to the Auckland Unitary Plan Section E35 for full details.

Summary

Offal pit disposal and composting will require resource consent as the waste is from a commercial animal processing business.

Definitions

Primary Processor – a person who, for purposes of trade or for reward (otherwise than as an employee), carries out the operations or processes described in this notice as primary processing operations or processes in relation to a specified animal product or material is to be treated for the purposes of the Act as a primary processor of that product or material.

Auckland Council consider that Poultry farmers are primary processors and therefore the waste is from a commercial animal processing business.

Offal Pits

Auckland Unitary Plan – Section E35

E35.4.1(A12)

The disposal of dead stock and offal onto or into land that complies with Standard E35.6.1.1 and Standard E35.6.1.7 is permitted.

E35.6.1.1

(1) There must be no direct discharge or runoff to surface water, intermittent streams or artificial watercourses that connect to surface water.

(2) Discharges must not result in surface ponding of more than three hours in duration.

E35.6.1.7.

Disposal of dead stock and offal onto or into land

(1) The disposal must be into an offal hole, shallow trench or by composting.

*(2) The material must not originate from a **commercial animal processing business**.*

(3) Offal holes or trenches must not be located within 20m of a surface water body, floodplain or the coastal marina area.

Ancillary farming earthworks

Standard **E11.6.3** of the Auckland Unitary Plan (Section E11) states:

Ancillary farming earthworks listed as a permitted activity in Table E11.4.1, Table E11.4.2 or Table E11.4.3 must comply with the following standards.

1. Land disturbance must not, after reasonable mixing, result in any of the following effects in receiving waters:
 - a. the production of conspicuous oil or grease films, scums or foams, or floatable or suspended materials;
 - b. any conspicuous change in the colour or visual clarity;
 - c. any emission of objectionable odour;
 - d. the rendering of fresh water unsuitable for consumption by farm animals; or
 - e. any significant adverse effects on aquatic life.
2. Ancillary farming earthworks must implement best practice erosion and sediment control measures for the duration of the land disturbance. Those measures must be installed prior to the commencement of the land disturbance and maintained until the site is stabilised against erosion.

Composting

Rule E35.6.1.7

Disposal of dead stock and offal onto or into land

(1) The disposal must be into an offal hole, shallow trench or by composting.

*(2) The material must not originate from a **commercial animal processing** business.*

(3) Offal holes or trenches must not be located within 20m of a surface water body, floodplain or the coastal marina area.

Standard E35.6.1.4

The use of land to stockpile and compost vegetative material or animal waste and the discharge of vegetative material or animal waste onto or into land

1. *The stockpiling and compost of vegetative material or animal waste must occur:*
 - *on a sealed surface with a permeability not exceeding 1×10^{-9} m/s; and*
 - *on a surface that collects all discharges.*

Attachment

Resource Consents

A resource consent is not required for disposal at landfills.

If you are considering on-site disposal, such as burial or composting, you will need to assess if a resource consent is required. This attachment provides a summary of key steps for consenting.

We recommend that you seek disposal options that do not require resource consent in the first instance. Seeking consent can be expensive and time-consuming. It may take months to prepare, lodge, process and grant a consent.

Quick notes

A resource consent is formal permission from a council to undertake an activity that contravenes a rule. It is how councils manage possible effects on people and the environment.

- Poultry farms will often already have resource consent/s in place, possibly for: discharging wastewater, drawing water, constructing sheds.
- Both district and regional rules should be considered.
 - District consents – granted by district councils. Regarding land-use, development, noise, traffic and the built environment.
 - Regional consents – granted by regional councils. Regarding environmental effects – water, soils and air.
- If you contravene a rule, you may need a resource consent to undertake on-site burial or composting.

1.0 Review the rules

Before you choose your disposal option, you should assess the rules and consider if you contravene any. Relevant regional and district rules are included but not limited to those attached to this guide.

Both regional and district rules need to be considered.

It is best to check with a planner or consultant before you dispose of AI material on-site. They can check your assessment so that you can be confident you are operating with the proper approvals. Contact details are provided in the guide.

2.0 Contravene a rule

If you contravene a rule, you will need a resource consent.

You should consider contracting a planner to assist with the resource consent application process.

2.1 What consents may be required?

Consents that may be required include but are not limited to:

- District – earthworks, discharge to air (odour),
 - Regional – earthworks, discharge to air (odour), land-use (offal pits), discharge of contaminants to land where it has the potential to enter water. Some regional plans have composting rules.
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3.0 Contact the council

Either you or your planner will need to contact the regional and/or district council as soon as possible. Council contact details are provided in the guide.

1. Pre-application meeting – we recommend organising a pre-application meeting with the council. This will ensure that you are applying for the correct activity under the correct rule. The council can then flag any potential issues early.

2. Preparation of the application

A resource consent application will need to be made. This includes:

- Completed application forms
- Assessment of environmental effects
- Statutory assessment
- Notification assessment – are there any affected parties?
- Consultation assessment
- Rule assessment

4.0 Granting of the consent

Only once the consent application is lodged and then granted will you be able to undertake the activity for which consent is required.

You will be issued with consent conditions that you must comply with.

The council may undertake compliance monitoring, which would include a monitoring officer inspecting the farm before, during or after the activity. This may be to ensure that the consent conditions are being complied with.