

A guide for Bay of Plenty farmers when disposing of culled chickens 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
- **Best practice tips – what we recommend**
- General advice and recommendations
- Who to talk to if you have questions
- Regional and District Plan rules to consider

Estimates

We estimate the following volumes and weight for carcasses + litter + manure for 10,000 birds. This is important to consider when assessing disposal options.

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

Onsite Disposal

Disposal of waste in an on-site offal pit may be a permitted activity and not need consent. If no rules are contravened, **we recommend offal pit disposal be the first choice for disposal**. Check with a planner first. Contact details are provided overleaf. Offal pits are only suitable for offal – other waste must go to landfill. The MPI on-farm burial Guidelines for managing AI are required to be complied with.

1. What can go in an offal pit?

- ✓ Carcasses and animal material including eggs
- ✓ Only waste from the same farm holding or land with the same owner
- × Other waste (including litter, shed material, bedding)
- × Dairy sludge or septic tank sludge
- × Hazardous substances such as explosives or electronics

2. Estimate the volume

- Offal pit sizes are limited by District earthworks rules:
- Rotorua Lakes = 1,000m³ and 5m deep.
- Other Districts = no limits

If you have a volume of waste that exceeds these limits, you will need to dispose of excess at an offsite landfill or consider another method of disposal.

Recommendations

1. Onsite **offal pits** for all or most waste (if consent is not required)
2. Offsite disposal (**landfills**) for any remaining waste that exceeds offal pit limits
3. Disposal requiring consent – offal pits that contravene a rule or **composting**.

3. Select an appropriate site

- ✓ Ensure appropriate buffers (described over the page) are met
- ✓ **Above the groundwater table.**
- ✓ **Elevated ground where surface water can be diverted away from the hole.**
- × No high value soils or soils containing gravel or limestone
- × **Poorly drained areas or areas prone to flooding or ponding during high rainfall.**

4. Digging your pit

- ✓ Dispose of waste as quickly as possible.
- ✓ Install erosion, sediment and dust controls as needed.
- ✓ Restore the surface to a similar state as the surrounding land.
- ✓ Securely cover – at least 0.3m. No stormwater infiltration.
- ✓ **Don't use lime as this can restrict the decomposition process.**

Offal Pit Buffer distances

Buffer	50m	100m
Groundwater bore, stream, river, lake or wetland. Geothermal surface feature. Coastal Marine Area.	X	
Property Boundary		X

Composting

Composting will require resource consent. Obtaining consent may take many months, therefore **we recommend farmers first seek offal pit disposal and offsite disposal first.**

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.

Consenting

- Will require a resource consent from the Regional Council for large-scale composting activities such as this.
- If you choose composting as your disposal option, start applying for your consent ASAP.
- We recommend you contact a planner, details are provided overleaf.

Considerations

- Indoor composting should be sought – outdoor composting may be impacted by rain and cold temperatures.
- The composting material must reach temperatures of 55 degrees Celsius
- Odour and leachate must be contained.
- Specialised equipment and extra staff may be required.

Offsite disposal

Not all landfills will accept culled chickens or bird flu-impacted waste. **These landfills have indicated that they may be able to accept this waste.** Landfills are responsible for obtaining their own consent.

We recommend off-site disposal as the second option, as this may be more costly than on-site disposal.

Whitford Landfill

P: 021 953 755 (Mike Winterbottom)

E: mwinterbottom@wm.nz

A: 301 Whitford-Maraetai Road, Auckland

Redvale Landfill

P: 021 953 755 (Glen Jujnovich)

E: GJujnovich@wm.nz

A: 1627 East Coast Road, Redvale

Omarunui Landfill – Hawke's Bay

Contact via online form

Geoff Roberts (Hutt City Council)

A: Taylor Pass Road, Blenheim

3 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 volume and weight of waste needs to be estimated and supplied to truck and landfill operators.

3. Organize transport

- Trucks must be sealed and/or double lined, no leakage must be able to occur.
- 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.

General Advice

- Advice and recommendations may change – make sure this is the most up to date version of this guide before taking action (check the date on page 1)
- If you want to dispose of waste in different way, not described in this guide, please talk to a planner. Contact details are provided below. All handling of AI waste must comply with MPI Guidelines.
- Resource consents – disposing of culled chickens is time-sensitive. **We recommend disposal options that do not need a resource consent.**

➡ Offal pits – may or may not need consent.

➡ Check with a planner and or Regional Council first.

➡ Landfill – does not need resource consent.

➡ Composting – will require consent

Council contacts

Council	Stream	Contact #	Email
BOP Regional Council	General	0800 884 880	Online inquiry form
Rotorua Lakes Council	General	07 348 4199	info@rotorualc.nz
Western BOP District Council	Planning	0800 926 732	csplanner@westernbay.govt.nz
Whakatane District Council	General	07 306 0500	info@whakatane.govt.nz

Planning and environmental advice

Name	Role	Contact #	Email
Hali Hoskin (author)	Environmental Consultant	+64 9 2126468	h.hoskin@harrisingrierson.com
Mary McConnell	Planner	+64 21 721623	m.mcconnell@harrisingrierson.com

Attachment

Regional Plan

Bay of Plenty Regional Natural Resources Plan

This guide has only considered the relevant rule from the Bay of Plenty Regional Natural Resources Plan. This rule is summarised below. Refer to the Bay of Plenty Regional Natural Resources Plan Rule DW R14 for full details.

Commentary

- Offal hole disposal may be a permitted activity if no regional or district rules are contravened. Check with a planner first.
- Composting will require consent as the permitted activity rule excludes offal from composting activities.

Definitions

Hazardous substances – waste impacted by bird flu (HPIA) is considered a hazardous substance as it is considered infectious and pathological. Therefore, disposal of this waste in an onsite landfill is not permitted under rule DW R13 (Rule 25).

Composting

Rule DW R16 states:

No hazardous substances, human sewage, petroleum hydrocarbons (including oil), fats (including grease trap wastes and animal fats), offal or animal carcasses shall be composted.

Bay of Plenty Regional Natural Resources Plan DW R14 (Rule 26) - Offal Holes

The discharge of contaminants from the operation of an offal hole, is a permitted activity subject to the following conditions:

- Discharge into an offal hole is limited to animal and vegetable material resulting from normal farm operations sourced exclusively from the farm property on which the offal hole is sited, but excludes the discharge of substances and materials specified in (b).
- The following substances and materials shall not be discharged to an offal hole: (i) hazardous substances and their containers, (ii) petroleum hydrocarbons (including oils and fuels) and their containers, (iii) human sewage, (iv) stock effluent.
- The offal hole shall not be located within:
 - 50 horizontal metres of any groundwater bore, stream, river, lake or wetland.
 - 50 horizontal metres of a geothermal surface feature.
 - 50 horizontal metres of the Coastal Marine Area.
 - An area that is flooded during storm events. This includes land that is:
 - an ephemeral flowpath, or
 - the berm of a river scheme identified in Schedule 5, or
 - a floodway identified in Schedule 6.
 - An area where the highest groundwater level is less than two (2) metres below the base of the offal hole.
- There shall be no surface ponding of leachate or wastes at the offal hole site or overland flow of leachate or wastes from the offal hole site.

Auckland

- e. The offal hole shall be securely covered with a minimum of 300 mm of soil material substrate.

Bay of Plenty Regional Natural Resources Plan DW R13 (Rule 25) - Farm dumps

The discharge of contaminants, including leachate, to land in circumstances where the contaminant or its by-products may enter water, as part of the operation of an on-farm rubbish dump, is a permitted activity subject to the following conditions:

The following substances and materials shall not be discharged to an on-farm rubbish dump:

- i) **hazardous substances,**
- ii) petroleum hydrocarbons (including oils and fuels) and their containers,
- iii) human sewage,
- iv) stock effluent,
- v) **offal, dead stock or animals.**

District Plans

This section provides a summary of rules for the District Plans within the Bay of Plenty Region, that have Poultry farms. Refer to the District Plans for the full details.

Rotorua Lakes District Plan

Earthworks

EW-S1 (1) – General earthworks in the Rural Zone are a Permitted Activity, given compliance with the following standards:

- Volume shall not exceed **1,000m³**;
- Any fill should be cleanfill and not exceed **5m** in depth; and
- The cut face of any excavation shall not exceed a vertical dimension of 3m.

EW-S1 (3) – All zones must comply with:

- It shall not require retaining structures that are either in excess of 1.5m in height (measured from the finished ground level) at any point or in excess of 20m in total length;
- It shall not result in the modification of a Mamaku Tor; and
- It shall not be carried out within 20m of the Waikato River Operating Easement boundary (as identified on map 213 and the Planning Maps).

Western Bay of Plenty District Plan

Earthworks

4A.5 – With the exception of the following, all Earthworks shall be permitted:

- Earthworks which are listed as requiring resource consent elsewhere in the District Plan.
- Earthworks which are undertaken in association with an activity for which a resource consent for a Discretionary or Non-Complying Activity is required.
- Where Earthworks are listed as a matter of control or discretion.

Whakatāne District Plan

Earthworks

EW-R1 – Earthworks are a Permitted Activity in all zones, given that:

- soil shall not, as practicable, be windblown from the site or taken from the site inadvertently on vehicle tyres or by other activity on-site. Where there is a risk of dust nuisance extending beyond the property boundary a form of dust suppression shall be

available on-site at all times that earthworks are being undertaken, and until such time as site restoration has occurred or a structure has been constructed over the area of the earthworks;

- all cut faces shall be battered to a grade that is self-supporting or retained to avoid instability of land behind the cut;
- the land shall be restored in accordance with the EW-R6 below, shall be completed within the first growing season after earthworks. Topsoil shall, as far as practicable, be retained on-site for use in restoring the land after earthworks. Topsoil shall be removed from both cut-and-fill areas before excavation and / or construction of embankments and restored to bare soil areas after completion of the works. Provided that this provision shall not apply if the purpose of the earthworks to create an access track or the area will be covered in an impermeable surface; and
- measures to control stormwater and sediment during works shall be designed and constructed in such a way as to minimise soil erosion, dust and sediment discharge. Compliance with NZS 4404:2010 is one means of meeting this rule.

There are no limits for earthworks in the rural production and general rural zones, other than those stated in the following chapters:

- ECO - Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity
- HH - Historic Heritage
- SASM - Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori
- NT - Notable Trees
- NFL - Natural Features and Landscapes.

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.