

A guide for Northland 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, Egg Producers Federation 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

Offal Pit 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 second choice for disposal, after composting**. Demonstrating that offal pit disposal is a permitted activity may be more difficult compared to composting. 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.

Recommendations

1. On-site **offal pits** (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.

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. Check your District Rules

- Some district rules limit where and how earthworks are permitted to be done. See the attachment for further details.
- Earthworks volumes are limited to 5,000m³

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

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	20m	50m
Public road or space	X	
Surface water, a continually or intermittently flowing river, artificial watercourse, lake, natural wetland or the coastal marine area. Head of any water supply bore. Dwelling owned or occupied by another person.		X
The district plans specify further buffers. See the attachment for details.		

Offsite disposal

Not all landfills will accept culled chickens or bird flu-impacted waste. **Below are landfills that have indicated that they may be able to accept this waste.**

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

Landfills are responsible for obtaining their own appropriate consents or authorisations.

Puwera Landfill

E: 027 258 0532 (Andrew Sclater)

E: andrew.sclater@northlandwaste.co.nz

A: Off SH1 8km south of Whangarei

Disposal of this material at a landfill will incur additional costs on top of routine landfill costs.

Farmers should also consider transport costs.

Redvale Landfill

P: 021 953 755 (Glen Jujnovich)

E: GJujnovich@wm.nz

A: Landfill Access Road, Dairy Flat

Whitford Landfill

P: 027 801 0369 (Mike Winterbottom)

E: mwinterbottom@wm.nz

A: 301 Whitford-Maraetai Road, Auckland

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 need to be estimated and supplied to truck and landfill operators. The following numbers are generally expected for 10,000 carcasses + litter + associated waste:
- 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 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 Biosecure Transport Guide.

4. Submit Permitted Waste Application

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

3 Composting

Composting may require resource consent; farmers should check with Regional Council first. If composting can be done without a resource consent, **we recommend farmers seek composting as the primary disposal method**. Some associated material will need to be taken to landfill. The MPI Composting Guidelines for managing AI are required to 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 such as this.
- 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.

General Advice

- If you want to dispose of waste in a different way, not described in this guide, please talk to a planner and Biosecurity New Zealand. Contact details are provided below.
- Resource consent – disposing of culled chickens is time-sensitive. We recommend disposal options that do not need resource consent.
- In the event that consent is needed, we recommend you start the application process as soon as practical.
- Advice and recommendations may change – check you've got the most up-to-date version

Council contacts

Council	Stream	Contact Number	Email address
Northland Regional Council	General	0800 002 004	info@nrc.govt.nz
Far North District Council	Planning	0800 920 029	duty.planner@fndc.govt.nz
Kaipara District Council	General	0800 727 059	council@kaipara.govt.nz
Whangarei District Council	General	09 430 4200	mailroom@wdc.govt.nz

Planning and environmental advice

Name	Role	Contact Number	Email address
Hali Hoskin (author)	Environmental Consultant	+64 9 2126468	h.hoskin@harrisongrierson.com
Mary McConnell	Planner	+64 3 421 6196	m.mcconnell@harrisongrierson.com

Attachment

Northland Rules

Northland Regional Plan

This guide has only considered the relevant rules from the Proposed Northland Regional Plan¹. These rules are summarised below. Refer to the Proposed Northland Regional Plan for full details.

Summary

- Offal pit and composting may be a permitted activity – you should first check with the regional council.
- Some waste, such as bedding, feed etc may not be permitted to be disposed of onsite
- Earthworks should not be done in a high erosion area or contaminated soils and should comply with the conditions of **Rule C.8.3.1**.

Definitions

Compost - Any combination of solid or semi-solid vegetable and animal waste that has fully decomposed and matured to a stabilised product. For the purposes of this Plan, compost does not contain human sewage, dead animals or animal parts, other than as provided for in **C.6.3.4(6)**
Discharges associated with the disposal of dead animals or offal – permitted activity.

Primary production - Any agricultural, pastoral, horticultural, forestry or aquaculture activities undertaken for the purpose of commercial gain or exchange, and

1. includes any land and auxiliary buildings used for the production of the products that result from the listed activities, but
2. does not include processing of those products.

Offal Pits and Composting

Rule C.6.3.4 (Permitted Activity)

The discharge of a contaminant onto or into land resulting from the disposal of dead animals or offal, and any associated discharge of odour to air, are permitted activities, provided:

1. *the disposal site is not located within:*
 - a. **50 metres** of surface water, a continually or intermittently flowing river, artificial watercourse, lake, natural wetland or the coastal marine area, or
 - b. **50 metres** of the head of any water supply bore, or
 - c. **50 metres** of a dwelling owned or occupied by another person, or
 - d. **20 metres** of a public road or space, and
2. *the discharge does not contaminate any groundwater supply or surface water, and*
3. *catchment runoff is prevented from entering the disposal site, and*
4. *the disposal site is covered or otherwise contained, and*
5. *the discharge does not cause an offensive or objectionable odour beyond the property boundary, and*
6. *where a composting process is used, only dead animals or animal parts from the production land activity within the property are to be composted, and industry guidelines specific to the type of dead animal being composted are complied with.*

On-site refuse disposal

Rule C.6.7.2 (Permitted Activity)

¹ Rules are fully operative. Objectives and policies of operative plan must be considered but more weighting should be given to the objectives and policies of the proposed plan.

The discharge of a contaminant from primary production or household waste, except dead animals and offal, onto or into land is a permitted activity, provided:

1. the waste is not from an **industrial or trade premises**, and
2. the waste comprises domestic waste or waste from primary production activities but does not include agrichemical containers or hazardous substances, and
3. the waste is generated on the property where the discharge site is located, and
4. the property is not located within 20 kilometres by road of a territorial authority waste transfer station that accepts bulk refuse, and
5. the property is more than four hectares in area, and
6. the volume of waste discharged does not exceed 12 cubic metres per property per calendar year, and
7. the discharge is not located within:
 - a. 50 metres of the coastal marine area, a stream, river, lake or natural wetland, or
 - b. 50 metres from the bore head of any water supply bore, or
 - c. 50 metres of a geothermal surface feature, or
 - d. 50 metres of any neighbouring property owned or occupied by another person, or
 - e. a one-in-100-year flood hazard area, and
8. stormwater is prevented from entering the waste discharge site, and
9. the waste discharge site is not subject to groundwater or saltwater intrusion or inundation, and
10. the waste is covered to prevent wind-blown refuse, and
11. the surface of the discharge site is re-vegetated when no longer in use to avoid erosion and sediment runoff, and
12. the discharge does not result in any offensive or objectionable odour or dust beyond the boundary of the subject property.

Earthworks

Rule C.8.3.1

Earthworks outside the bed of a river, lake, wetland, inanga spawning site and the coastal marine area, and any associated damming and diversion of stormwater and discharge of stormwater onto or into land where it may enter water, are permitted activities provided:

1. the area and volume of earthworks at a particular location or associated with a project complies with the thresholds in Table 15: Permitted activity earthworks thresholds.

Location	Earthworks thresholds
Within 10m of a natural wetland , the bed of a continually or intermittently flowing river or lake	200m ² of exposed earth at any time, and 50m ³ of moved or placed earth in any 12-month period.
Within 10m of an inanga spawning site	200 m ² of exposed earth at any time, and 50m ³ of moved or placed earth in any 12-month period.
Catchment of an Outstanding Lake	2,500m ² of exposed earth at any time.
Erosion-prone Land	2,500m ² of exposed earth at any time.
High-risk flood hazard area	50m ³ of moved or placed earth in any 12-month period.
Coastal riparian and foredune management area	Excluding for coastal dune restoration , 200m ² of exposed earth at any time.
Flood hazard area	100 m ³ of moved or placed earth in any 12-month period.
Other areas	5,000m ² of exposed earth at any time.

2. the discharge is not within 20 metres of a geothermal surface feature, and
3. except for coastal dune restoration activities, good management practice erosion and sediment control measures equivalent to those set out in the Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Land Disturbing Activities in the Auckland Region 2016 (Auckland Council Guideline Document GD2016/005), are implemented for the duration of the activity, and

4. *batters and side castings are stabilised to prevent slumping, and*
5. *exposed earth is stabilised upon completion of the earthworks to minimise erosion and avoid slope failure, and*
6. *earth and debris are not deposited into, or in a position where they can enter, a natural wetland, a continually or intermittently flowing river, a lake, an artificial watercourse, or the coastal marine area, and*
7. *the earthworks activity does not:*
 - a. *reduce the height of a dune crest in a coastal riparian and foredune management area, except where dunes are recontoured to remove introduced materials or to remediate dune blow-outs as part of coastal dune restoration work, or*
 - b. *exacerbate flood or coastal hazard risk on any other property, or*
 - c. *create or contribute to the instability or subsidence of land on other property, or*
 - d. *divert flood flow onto other property, and 220*
8. *any associated damming, diversion and discharge of stormwater does not give rise to any of the following effects in the receiving waters beyond the zone of reasonable mixing:*
 - a. *any conspicuous change in colour or visual clarity, or*
 - b. *the rendering of freshwater unsuitable for consumption by farm animals, or*
 - c. *contamination which may render freshwater taken from a mapped priority drinking water abstraction point (refer I Maps | Ngā mahere matawhenua) unsuitable for human consumption after existing treatment, and*
9. *information on the source and composition of any clean fill material and its location within the disposal site are recorded and provided to the Regional Council on request, and*
10. *the Regional Council's Compliance Manager is given at least five working days' notice (in writing or by email) of any earthwork's activity being undertaken within a high-risk flood hazard area, flood hazard area, where contaminated land will be exposed, or in sand dunes within a coastal riparian and foredune management area.*

District Plans

Relevant rules from the district plans within Northland are summarised below.

Summary

Earthworks for offal pit disposal may be a permitted activity if the following rules can be followed. We recommend that you contact your district council first to check that consent is not required.

Far North District Plan

Rule 12.3.6.1.1

Excavation and/or filling, excluding mining and quarrying, on any site in the rural Production Zone is a Permitted Activity, given compliance with:

- Does not exceed **5,000m³** per site; and
- Does not involve a continuous cut or filled face exceeding an average of 1.5m in height over the length of the face.

Kaipara District Plan

12.10.1a

Excavation and Fill is a Permitted Activity, if:

- The site is not within any area known to be erosion prone, subject to instability or flood hazards; and
- All bare earth areas, including excavation and fill batter faces within a site, are revegetated or stabilised within six months of the earthworks being completed; and
- All revegetated areas within a site are maintained and managed so as to achieve 80% ground cover within 24 months of the earthworks being completed; and
- The site is not located within an Outstanding Natural Landscape, identified on Map Series

Rural Zone

- The works are within 6m of the bank of any lake, river or edge of any wetland and the volume is less than 1,000m³ and the area is less than **1,000m²**; or
- The works are located a minimum of 6m from the bank of any lake, river or edge of any wetland and the volume is less than **5,000m³** within a site.

Whangarei District Plan

EW-R2 4. a. – Permitted Activity given the works are undertaken for the purpose of:

- An emergency regulation made under section 150 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Earthworks within three times the maximum radius of the canopy dripline of a Kauri tree (Kauri hygiene area), specific rules apply.

RPROZ-R1 – Any activity not otherwise listed in this chapter is a Permitted Activity.

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.