

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

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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. Check with a planner first. Contact details are provided overleaf. Excess waste may need to go to landfill. The MPI on-farm burial Guidelines for managing AI are required to be complied with.

If you choose a disposal option that requires consent, we recommend you start the application process as soon as practical.

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
- ✓ Waste from the farm (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:
- New Plymouth District= 1,000m³.
- Stratford District and South Taranaki District = 3,000m³

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.

3. Select an appropriate site

- ✓ Ensure appropriate buffers (described over the page) are met
- ✓ **At least 1m above the groundwater table.**
- ✓ **Elevated ground where surface water can be diverted away from the hole.**
- × No 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.
- ✓ **Cover waste with at least 1m of soil or temporarily cover with plastic and soil, until the hole is full and can be capped.**
- × **Don't use lime as this can restrict the decomposition process.**

Offal Pit Buffer distances

Buffer	15m	25m	50m
Other offal pits	X		
Surface water body		X	
Bore well or spring used for water supply purposes			X

Composting

Composting may require resource consent; farmers should check with Council first. 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.

Offsite disposal

Not all landfills will accept bird flu-impacted waste. **Below are landfills that may be able to accept bird carcasses (green boxed) or associated waste.**

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

Silverstream Landfill – Wellington (~5 hrs)

May be able to accept biological waste
P: 546 0200 E: - landfill@ncc.govt.nz
A: Reynolds Bach Drive, Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt 5019 .

Disposal of this material at a landfill will incur additional costs on top of routine landfill costs.
Farmers should also consider transport costs.

Central Hawke's Bay Landfill (~4 hrs)

P: 06 857 8060
E: landfill@chbdc.govt.nz
A: 806 Farm Road, Waipukurau 4284.
May accept biological waste, but only from within the Central HB District

Whitford Landfill (~5 hrs)

May be able to accept biological waste
P: 021 953 755 (Mike Winterbottom)
E: mwinterbottom@wm.nz
A: 301 Whitford-Maraetai Road, Auckland

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 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.

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 – make sure this is the most recent version of this guide before taking action.

Council contacts

Council	Stream	Contact #	Email
Taranaki Regional Council	General	0800 736 222	info@trc.govt.nz
New Plymouth District Council	General	06 759 6060	enquiries@npdc.govt.nz
Stratford District Council	General	06 765 6099	stratforddc@stratford.govt.nz
South Taranaki District Council	Planning	06 278 0555	planning@stdc.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

Plans and Rules

Taranaki Regional Plan

This guide has considered the relevant rules from the Taranaki Regional Freshwater Plan. These rules are summarised below. Refer to the Plan for full details.

Taranaki Regional Freshwater Plan – Rule 30 Agricultural discharges

Discharge of offal, farm rubbish, leachate from silage pits and feedlots and other on-farm waste material into or onto land excluding those materials covered by Rules 22 and 35-39 is a permitted activity subject to the following conditions:

- a) Discharge occurs onto or into productive land;
- b) Only waste generated on the subject property shall be discharged;
- c) Discharge shall not occur within **50m** of any bore, well or spring used for water supply purposes;
- d) Discharge shall not occur within **25m** of any surface water body;
- e) Discharge shall not lead or be liable to lead to any contaminants entering surface water;
- f) Disposal of surplus agrichemical solution and containers shall be undertaken in accordance with recommendations of the manufacturer or supplier, as stated in the directions on the product container label;
- g) Offal pits should be securely covered;
- h) Offal pits should be at least **15m** from any other offal pit that has been used in the previous five years.

Productive Land is defined as any land used for the production of primary products. This includes agricultural and pastoral products. This definition includes poultry farms.

Taranaki Regional Freshwater Plan – Rule 25 Earthworks Permitted Activity)

Discharges of stormwater and sediment deriving from soil disturbance activities of 1ha or less; (Permitted activity) Subject to the following conditions:

- a) The discharge shall not derive from an area of soil disturbance greater than **1ha**;
- b) The discharge shall not derive from a volume of soil disturbance greater than **3,000m³**
- c) Soil stabilisation shall be undertaken as soon as practicable after the completion of the works;
- d) Discharge to surface water shall contain less than 100gm³ suspended solids;
- e) Discharge to surface water shall not give rise to any or all the following effects in the receiving water after reasonable mixing:
 - The production of any conspicuous oil or grease films, scums, or foams, or floatable or suspended materials;
 - Any conspicuous change in the colour or visual clarity;
 - Any emission of objectionable odour;
 - The rendering of freshwater unsuitable for consumption by farm animals;
 - Any significant adverse effects on aquatic life.

Taranaki Regional Freshwater Plan – Rule 26 Earthworks (Permitted Activity)

Discharges of stormwater and sediment deriving from soil disturbance activities of between **1 and 8ha**; (Permitted activity) subject to the following conditions:

- a) The discharge shall not derive from an area of soil disturbance greater than **8ha**;
- b) The discharge shall not derive from a volume of soil disturbance greater than **24,000m³**

- c) The discharge shall not derive from soil disturbance which takes place between 1 May and 31 October;
- d) The discharge shall not derive from soil disturbance which takes place within a defined urban catchment
- e) Soil stabilisation shall be undertaken as soon as practicable after the completion of the works;
- f) Discharge to surface water shall contain less than 100gm³ suspended soils;
- g) Discharge to surface water shall not give rise to any or all the following effects in the receiving water after reasonable mixing:
 - The production of any conspicuous oil or grease films, scums, or foams, or floatable or suspended materials;
 - Any conspicuous change in the colour or visual clarity;
 - Any emission of objectionable odour;
 - The rendering of freshwater unsuitable for consumption by farm animals;
 - Any significant adverse effects on aquatic life.

District Plans

This section provides a summary of rules for the District Plans within Taranaki Region. Refer to the District Plans for the full details. There are three districts within the Region.

There are no relevant rules in the **South Taranaki District Plan** or the **Stratford District Plan** for;

- Earthworks
- Disposal of carcasses or associated waste
- Offal pits

New Plymouth Proposed District Plan – Appeals Version

Earthworks

EW-R13 – Earthworks in the Rural Production Zone are a Permitted Activity given:

- The total volume does not exceed 1,000m³ per site; and
- Relevant standards are complied with:
 - EW-S1 Instability of land.
 - EW-S2 Max cut depth or fill height.
 - EW-S4 Control of silt and sediment.
 - EW-S5 Requirements for discovery of sensitive material during earthworks or land disturbance.

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.