

A guide for Tasman Region 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

Recommendations

1. Landfills
2. Composting

Regional Council advises against on-site offal pits due to the high water table

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 = 24t and 25m³ Broiler = 40t and 65m³

Offsite disposal

Not all landfills will accept bird flu-impacted waste. **Below are landfills that may be able to accept bird carcasses or associated waste.** Landfills are responsible for obtaining their own appropriate consents or authorisations.

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

Farmers should also consider transport costs.

Kate Valley Landfill

P: 02108243882.

E: hleach@wm.nz

A: 554 Mt Cass Road, Teviotdale

Eves Valley Landfill

Although this landfill is currently closed, Council have advised it can be reopened under urgency

P: 0220125973, 03 546 0200

E: landfill@ncc.govt.nz and

David.Stephenson@tasman.govt.nz

A: 214 Eves Valley Road

York Valley Landfill

P: 0220125973, 03 546 0200

E: landfill@ncc.govt.nz,

David.Stephenson@tasman.govt.nz

A: 102 Market Road, Nelson

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

- Volume and weight needs to be estimated and supplied to truck and landfill operators.
- The estimates provided offer a useful starting point, but farmers should calculate 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.

2 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.

General Advice

- Disposal of this waste at commercial quantities should be done in collaboration with Tasman District Council to ensure safety, efficiency and full compliance.
- 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.

Useful contacts

Name	Role	Number	Email address
Tasman District Council	General	03 543 8400	Online inquiry form
Guinny Coleman	TDC Biosecurity Lead	n/a	Guinny.coleman@tasman.govt.nz
David Stephenson	TDC landfill overseer	n/a	David.Stephenson@tasman.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

Attachment

Tasman Resource Management Plan

This guide has only considered the relevant rules from the Tasman Resource Management Plan. These rules are summarised below. Refer to the Tasman Resource Management Plan for full details.

Summary

- Consent is not required (by farmers) to dispose at a landfill – landfill operators hold consents and are responsible for managing the effects of disposal
- Consent is required to compost, as the permitted activity is limited to 50 cubic meters of waste.
- Disposal in offal pits is not advised for this region due to the high-water table

Composting

The Tasman Resource Management Plan **Rule 36.1.2.9** - Discharge of Leachate from Compost states:

The discharge of any contaminant onto or into land in connection with composting operations (excluding the ensilage of vegetation) is a permitted activity that may be undertaken without a resource consent, if it complies with the following conditions:

- a) The volume of material being or to be composted does not exceed 50 cubic metres in total on any property.*
- b) No hazardous substances or septage, or sludge is composted.*
- c) There is no discharge or run-off of leachate into water.*
- d) The discharge is no less than:*
 - i. 50 metres from any surface water body, or the coastal marine area;*
 - ii. 20 metres from any bore for domestic water supply;*
 - iii. 10 metres from any adjoining property.*
- e) The discharge does not cause an offensive or objectionable odour discernible beyond the property boundary.*

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.