

A guide for Wellington 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 weights for carcasses + associated waste 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 consent is not required for offal pit disposal, ensure that the location is GPS recorded and provided to Council upon request.

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
- × Dairy sludge or septic tank sludge
- × Hazardous substances such as explosives or electronics

2. Estimate the volume

- Offal pit size may be limited by permitted earthworks - upto an area of 3,000 meters squared may not need consent.
- Offal pit sizes may be further limited by District earthworks rules e.g. Porirua District = 1,000m³ and 5m deep. See the rules in the attached document.
- If you have a volume of waste that exceeds these limits, you will need to dispose of excess at an offsite landfill or consider obtaining consent

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.

3. Select an appropriate site

- ✓ Ensure appropriate buffers (described over the page) are met
- ✓ At least 0.6m above the groundwater table.
- ✓ Elevated ground where surface water can be diverted away from the hole.
- ✓ **In silty or clay soils,**
- × 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 – should be constructed in soil with an infiltration rate of less than 150 mm/hour.
- ✓ **Don't use lime as this can restrict the decomposition process.**

Offal Pit Buffer distances

Buffer	20m	50m	100m
Bore or well or surface water body		X	
Property Boundary			X

Composting

Composting will require resource consent; therefore, the Regional Council needs to be contacted as early as possible, ideally before any culling occurs. Some associated material may 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.
- 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 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.

Silverstream Landfill – Wellington

May accept biological waste

P: 546 0200 E: - landfill@ncc.govt.nz

A: Reynolds Bach Drive, Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt 5019 .

Central Hawke's Bay Landfill

May accept biological waste

P: 06 857 8060

E: landfill@chbdc.govt.nz

A: 806 Farm Road, Waipukurau 4284.

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.

Summary

- Wellington Regional Council recommends offal pit disposal as the first option as consent is likely not required. However, remember to check if earthworks consent is needed from your District Council.
- In the event that consent is needed, we recommend you start the consent application process as soon as practical.
- 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.
- Advice and recommendations may change – make sure this is the most recent version of this guide before taking action.

Useful contacts

Name	Role	Contact Number	Email address
Greater Wellington Regional Council	Planner	021 574 829	notifications@gw.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

Wellington Natural Resources Plan

This guide has only considered the relevant rules from the Wellington Natural Resources Plan. These rules are summarised below. Refer to the Wellington Natural Resources Plan for full details.

Summary

- Offal pit disposal will likely not require a discharge resource consent, however, may require an earthworks consent from the District Council.
 - The permitted activity rule requires that the location of all offal pits be recorded.
 - Earthworks for constructing offal pits is limited to 3,000 m³ under the regional plan. There may be district plan rules that further limit this volume.
- On-site landfills are not likely to be practical. Onsite landfills can only be on properties greater than 20 ha. On-site landfill disposal without a resource consent is limited to 50 cubic meters.
- Composting of offal will require a resource consent as the rule does not permit composting of offal.

All other discharges rule

Wellington Regional Council have advised that consent for offal pits, farm dump and composting would be considered under the following rule:

Rule R94: All other discharges – discretionary activity

The discharge of water or contaminants into water, or onto or into land where it may enter water, that is not:

- a) *in a site or habitat identified in Schedule A (outstanding water bodies), Schedule C (mana whenua), Schedule F1 (rivers/lakes), Schedule F3 (identified natural wetlands), Schedule F4 (coastal sites) or Schedule H1 (contact recreation), and*
- b) *a permitted, controlled, restricted discretionary, or non-complying activity under any other rule in the Plan, or a discretionary activity under Rules R55, R56, R58, R65, R83 or R90,*

is a discretionary activity.

Offal Pit

The Wellington Natural Resources Plan **Rule 79** states:

The discharge of contaminants onto or into land, or onto or into land where a contaminant may enter water, and the associated discharge of odour to air, from a new offal pit is a permitted activity, provided that the following conditions are met:

- c) *the offal pit shall only contain dead animal matter from the property where the offal pit is located, and*
- d) *the offal pit shall not be located within:*
 - i. *50m of a surface water body, coastal marine area, or bore used for water abstraction for potable supply, and*
 - ii. *an area prone to flooding or ponding, and*
- e) *the offal pit shall be located in silty or clay soils, and*
- f) *the bottom of the offal pit is 0.6m above the seasonally highest water table, and*
- g) *stormwater is prevented from entering the offal pit, and*
- h) *the location is recorded, by GPS or mapped to an accuracy of at least 50m at a scale of 1:50,000; and a copy of this information is made available to the Wellington Regional Council upon request, and*
- i) *the offal pit is re-contoured and re-vegetated to a condition that is compatible with the surrounding land within six months of completion, and*

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- j) the discharge of odour is not offensive or objectionable beyond the boundary of the property, and
- k) the offal pit is not located in a community water drinking water protection area as shown on Map 39, Map 40, Map 41, Map 42 and Map 43

Farm Refuse Dump

The Wellington Natural Resources Plan **Rule 78** states:

The discharge of contaminants onto or into land, or into land where a contaminant may enter water, and the associated discharge of odour to air, from a new farm refuse dump is a permitted activity, provided the following conditions are met:

- a) the contents of the farm refuse dump are from the property where the farm refuse dump is located, and
- b) the total volume of farm refuse dump capacity available on a property at any time shall not exceed 50m³, and
- c) the farm refuse dump is located:
 - i. on a property that is over 20ha, or
 - ii. in a hole excavated in silty or clay soils, or
 - iii. where no kerbside community collection is available or the property is located more than 20km by road from a transfer station, and
- d) the farm refuse dump is not located within:
 - i. an area prone to flooding or ponding, or
 - ii. 50m of a surface water body, coastal marine area, gully, bore used for water abstraction for potable supply, or boundary of the property, or
 - iii. a community drinking water supply protection area as shown on Map 39, Map 40, Map 41, Map 42 or Map 43, and
- e) the base of the farm refuse dump is 0.6m above the seasonally highest water table, and
- f) the discharge does not contain:
 - i. hazardous substances, or
 - ii. wastewater, and
- g) there is no burning of the contents of a farm refuse dump, and
- h) the size and location is recorded, using GPS or mapped to an accuracy of at least 50m at a scale of 1:50,000; and a copy of this information made available to the Wellington Regional Council upon request, and
- i) the farm refuse dump is re-contoured and re-vegetated to a condition that is compatible with the surrounding land within six months of completion, and
- j) the discharge of odour is not offensive or objectionable beyond the boundary of the property.

Composting

The Wellington Natural Resources Plan **Rule 77** states:

Manufacture and storage of silage and compost, and storage of solid animal waste

The discharge of contaminants onto or into land, or onto or into land where a contaminant may enter water, and the associated discharge of odour to air, from the manufacture and storage of silage or compost, or storage of solid animal waste is a permitted activity, provided the following conditions are met:

- a) the manufacture and storage area shall not be located within 20m of a surface water body, coastal marine area, or bore used for water abstraction for potable supply, and
- b) the discharge does not contain:
 - i. hazardous substances, or
 - ii. wastewater, sludge and other human sewage material, industrial waste, **offal or dead animal matter**, and
- c) there shall be no discharge of leachate to water from a manufacturing or storage area, and
- d) stormwater is prevented from entering into the manufacturing or storage area, and
- e) the walls and floor of a permanent pit or bunker for the storage of silage or solid animal waste shall have an impermeable lining able to withstand corrosion, and

- f) *the base of a silage stack storage area shall be constructed of compacted clay or compacted hardfill to minimise seepage of contaminants into land, and the base of the storage area shall be located at least 0.6m above the seasonally highest water table at the site, and*
- g) *the manufacture and storage of compost at an industrial or trade premise shall be undertaken on an impermeable surface, and*
- h) *the discharge of odour is not offensive or objectionable beyond the boundary of the property.*

Earthworks

The Wellington Natural Resources Plan **Rule 101** states:

*The use of land, and the associated discharge of sediment into water or onto or into land where it may enter water from earthworks up to a total area of **3,000m²** per property per 12 month period is a permitted activity, provided the following conditions are met:*

- a) *soil or debris from earthworks is not placed where it can enter a surface water body or the coastal marine area, and*
- b) *earthworks will not create or contribute to instability or subsidence of a slope or another land surface at or beyond the boundary of the property where the earthworks occurs, and*
- c) *any earthworks shall not, after the zone of reasonable mixing, result in any of the following effects in receiving waters:*
 - i. *the production of conspicuous oil or grease films, scums of foams, or floatable or suspended materials, or*
 - ii. *any conspicuous change in colour or visual clarity, or*
 - iii. *any emission of objectionable odour, or*
 - iv. *the rendering of fresh water unsuitable for consumption by animals, or*
 - v. *any significant adverse effect on aquatic life, and*
- d) *earthworks shall not occur within 5m of a surface water body except for earthworks undertaken in association with Rules R122, R125, R126, R127, R128, R130, R131, R132, R134, R137 and R139, and*
- e) *work areas are stabilised within six months after the completion of the earthworks.*

District Plans

This section provides a summary of rules for the District Plans for within Wellington Region

City of Lower Hutt District Plan

No rules limiting earthworks volume. Refer to regional limits.

Kapiti Coast District Plan

Earthworks relating to digging offal pits are a Permitted Activity with no specified volume/depth restrictions, given compliance with erosion and sediment controls and accidental discovery protocol where necessary.

Proposed Porirua District Plan

Earthworks not exceeding **1,000m²** per site are a Permitted Activity, given compliance with height, location, and slope standards.

Wairarapa Combined District Plan

No rules limiting earthworks volume. Refer to regional limits.

Wellington City District Plan

EW-R4 – Earthworks not exceeding **250m²** per site are a Permitted Activity, given compliance with other relevant standards (EW-S2, S3, S5, & S6).

Upper Hutt City District Plan

EW-R1 – Earthworks are a Permitted Activity, given compliance with relevant standards:

- EW-S2 – Existing ground level shall not be altered by cutting or filling by a vertical height of more than 1.5m.
- EW-S3 – The physical extent of earthworks shall not exceed 150m² in surface area on any one site.
- EW-S4 – Earthworks shall not be undertaken on erosion prone land.
- EW-S5 & S6 – Earthworks within an area identified as Southern Hills Overlay Area: existing ground level shall not be altered by cutting or filling vertical height of more than 2.5m; and the physical extent of earthworks shall not exceed 300m² in surface area on any one site.

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.