

A guide for West Coast 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 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. 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**.

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

1. What can go in an offal pit?

- ✓ Carcasses and animal material including eggs
- ✓ Compost bulking agent (manure)
- ✓ Other organic household waste
- ✓ Solid waste – litter, bedding, feed and associated waste
- × Dairy sludge or septic tank sludge
- × Hazardous substances such as explosives or electronics

2. Estimate the volume

- There are no district rules that limit the size or number of offal pits, therefore defer to the regional earthworks rules.
- West Coast Regional Land and Water Plan earthworks rules limit earthworks to **5,000** cubic meters.

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 and appropriate site

- ✓ Leachate must not enter water
- ✓ Ensure appropriate buffers (described over the page) are met
- ✓ No groundwater seepage into the pit. **At least 1m above the groundwater table.**
- ✓ **Elevated ground where surface water can be diverted away from the hole.**
- × Areas containing high value soils
- × **Poorly drained areas or areas prone to flooding or ponding during high rainfall.**
- × **Soils containing gravel and limestone**

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.
- ✓ Provide Regional Council with an accurate location of the offal pit
- ✓ **Cover waste with at least 1m of soil or temporarily cover with plastic and soil, until the hole is full and can be capped.**

Offal Pit Buffer Distances

	50m	100m
Coastal marine area, potable water extraction points, surface water bodies.	X	
Best practise – any surface water bodies		X

Composting

Considerations

- Composting will likely require resource consent. Obtaining consent may take many months. **Because of this we recommend offal pit and landfill disposal be sought first.**
- 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
- Minimum 30 days to complete – this will increase the time until farmers can return to normal operation.
- 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
- Odour and leachate must be contained.
- Specialised equipment and extra staff may be required.
- The MPI Composting Guide must be followed.

Offsite Disposal

Landfill disposal is the only appropriate offsite disposal method. Not all landfills will accept culled chickens or bird flu-impacted waste. The green boxed landfills below have confirmed that they would be able to accept this waste (with adequate preparation).

Landfills will be 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.

AB Lime - Southland Regional Landfill

P: 02041132212 (Ansley Adams)

E: wastenet@icc.govt.nz

A: 10 Bend Road, Browns 9782

Kate Valley Landfill

P: 02108243882.

E: hleach@wm.nz

A: 554 Mt Cass Road, Teviotdale

3 Landfill Disposal Key Steps

1. Contact landfill operators

- Contact the landfill operator as soon as possible.
- Southern Regional Landfill requests at least two days' notice.
- 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 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. Organize 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 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

- If you want dispose of waste in a way not described in this guide, please talk to a planner. Contact details are provided below.
- Resource consents – disposing of culled chickens is time-sensitive. We recommend disposal options that do not need a resource consent first.
- If your chosen disposal option requires consent, 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
West Coast Regional Council	Planning	0508 800 118	concc_admin@wrc.govt.nz
Grey District Council	Planning	03 769 8607	planning@greydc.govt.nz
Buller District Council	General	0800 807 239	info@bdc.govt.nz
Westland District Council	General	03 756 9010	council@westlanddc.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

West Coast District and Regional Rules

West Coast Regional Plans

Relevant regional rules for disposal of AI waste in the West Coast Region are summarised below. See the relevant plans and rules for full details.

Summary

The relevant regional rules of the West Coast Regional Council Water and Land Plan are summarised as:

- Offal pit disposal – is a permitted activity given the buffers and conditions in **Rule 73** are met.
- Offal pit volume is limited to 5,000 cubic meters (outside of erosion prone areas and riparian areas) according to the earthworks permitted activity **Rule 3**.
- Composting – will require consent as **Rule 85** does not allow composting of offal.

Offal Pit disposal

Rule 73 of the WCRC Regional Land and Water Plan states:

The discharge of any contaminants into or onto land in connection with the disposal of solid waste, including offal, on production land is a permitted activity, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

- (a) There is no contamination of water, including groundwater and coastal water; and*
- (b) The discharge consists only of solid waste, or offal, generated on the subject property; and*
- (c) The discharge area is not within **50 metres** of the subject property boundary; and*
- (d) The discharge does not contain:*
 - i) Any hazardous substance or container used to store hazardous substances; or*
 - ii) Any septage or sludge; and*
- (e) There is no windblown litter from the subject property; and*
- (f) Within twelve months of the activity ceasing, the discharge area is rehabilitated to a condition compatible with the surrounding land; and*
- (g) Offal pits shall be located not less than **50 metres** from any potable groundwater bore or well.*

Explanation: Provided that solid waste and offal pits are located on a suitable site and are not a threat to human or animal health, they will have a minimal impact.

Composting

Rule 85 of the WCRC Regional Land and Water Plan states

The discharge of any contaminants into or onto land in connection with composting operations on production land or for or from domestic composting operations, is a permitted activity, provided all of the following conditions are met:

- (a) There is no contamination of groundwater, water bodies, or coastal water; and*
- (b) Subject to condition (c), the discharge consists only of biodegradable wastes from that property;*
- (c) The discharge does not contain:*

- i) *Any hazardous substance or container used to store hazardous substances; or*
 - ii) **Any offal or carcasses;** *or*
 - iii) *Any septage or sludge; or*
 - iv) *Any agricultural effluent or sludge; and*
- (d) *There is no windblown litter from the subject property.*

Earthworks

Rule 3 of the WCRC Regional Land and Water Plan states:

Earthworks in the Non-Erosion Prone Area, outside riparian margins:

Do not exceed an annual volume of 5000m³ per landholding or hectare.

District Rules

There are three district in the West Coast Region: Buller, Grey and Westland. There are no district plans for earth works or relating to disposal of carcasses. Refer to the regional rules.

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.