

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

September 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 + flow chart
- **Best practice tips – what we recommend**
- General advice and recommendations
- Who to talk to if you have questions
- Regional rules to consider

### Recommendations

1. Offsite disposal (landfills)
2. Compost
3. Offal Pits (not preferred by council)

### 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 35m<sup>3</sup>    Broiler = 64t and 72m<sup>3</sup>

### Offsite Disposal

Not all landfills will accept culled chickens or bird flu-impacted waste. We recommend offsite disposal as the first option in Canterbury.

The green boxed landfills below may be able to accept this waste (with adequate preparation). Landfills will be responsible for obtaining their own appropriate consents or authorisations.

#### AB Lime - Southland Regional Landfill

P: 02041132212 (Ansley Adams)

E: [wastenet@icc.govt.nz](mailto:wastenet@icc.govt.nz)

A: 10 Bend Road, Browns 9782

#### Kate Valley Landfill

P: 02108243882.

E: [hleach@wm.nz](mailto:hleach@wm.nz)

A: 554 Mt Cass Road, Teviotdale

### 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 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.

## Onsite Disposal

Disposal of waste in an offal pit >50 cubic meters will require resource consent. Additionally, Canterbury Regional Council does not recommend offal pit disposal for this waste and encourages farmers to seek landfill disposal first.

We support this recommendation (Landfill > Composting > Offal pits).

## Composting

### Considerations

- Composting may require resource consent. Obtaining consent may take many months. **Because of this we recommend landfill disposal be sought first.**
- Indoor composting should be sought. Outdoor composting may be impacted by rain and cold temperatures and is limited by location – not permitted to occur within a Community Drinking Water Protection Zone or within the Christchurch Recharge Zone.
- 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. This is more difficult with outdoor composting.
- Specialised equipment and extra staff may be required.
- The MPI Composting Guide must be followed.

## General Advice

- Assess your disposal options with the flow chart provided by Environment Canterbury (attached)
- If you want to dispose of waste in a way not described in this guide, please talk to a planner and Biosecurity New Zealand. Contact details are provided below.
- All disposal of AI-impacted waste must comply with MPI Guidelines.
- Resource consent – disposing of culled chickens is time-sensitive. We recommend disposal options that do not need resource consent.
- 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.

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

## Useful Contacts

| Person / Council                          | Role                     | Number        | Email                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Environment Canterbury (Regional Council) | General                  | 0800 324 636  | Online inquiries or <a href="mailto:ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz">ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz</a>       |
| Hali Hoskin (author)                      | Environmental Consultant | +64 9 2126468 | <a href="mailto:h.hoskin@harrisongrierson.com">h.hoskin@harrisongrierson.com</a>       |
| Mary McConnell                            | Planner                  | +64 21 721623 | <a href="mailto:m.mcconnell@harrisongrierson.com">m.mcconnell@harrisongrierson.com</a> |

Key:

CDRPZ = Community Drinking Water Protection Zones

ChChRZ = Christchurch Recharge Zone

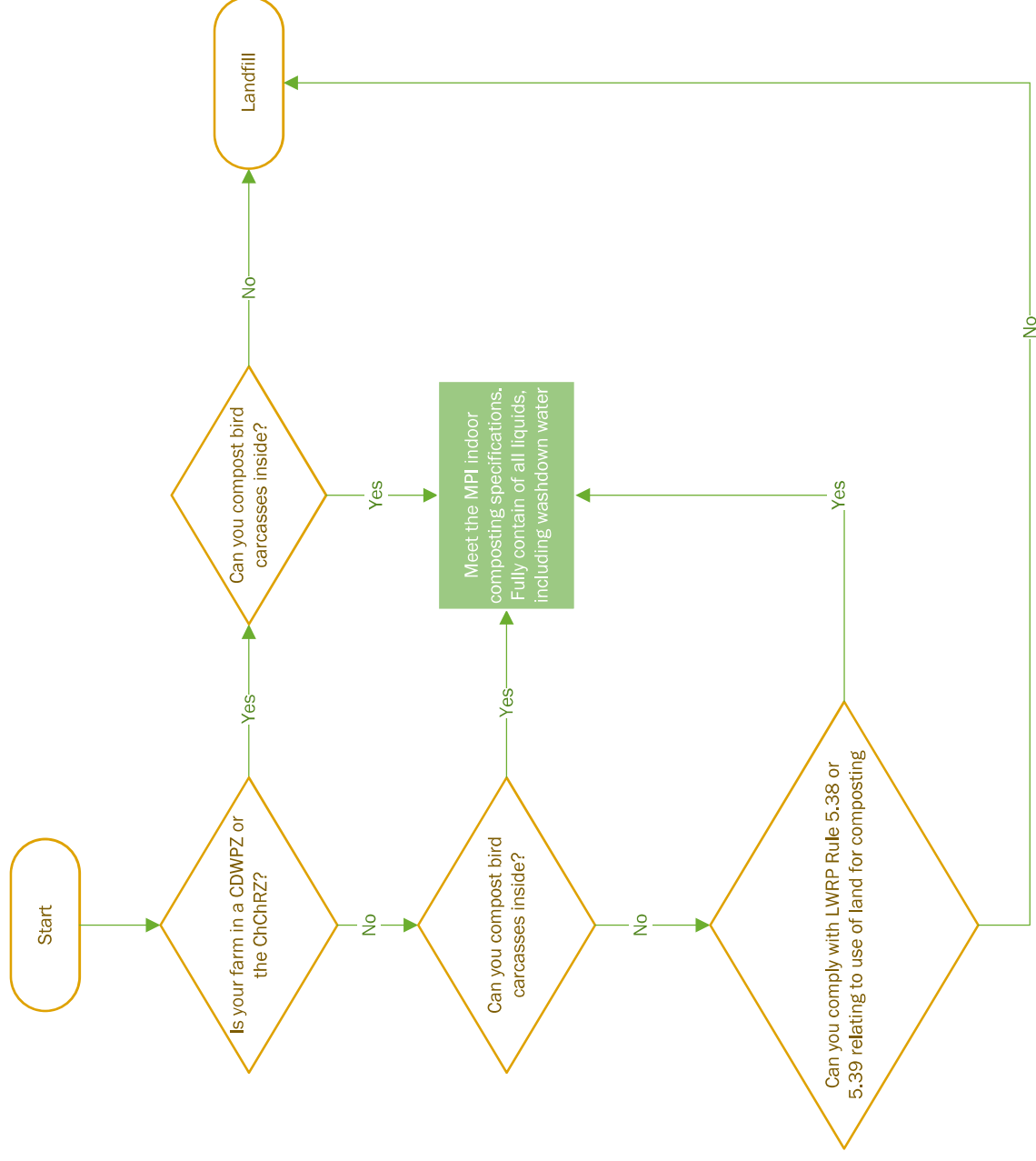
LWRP = Land Water Regional Plan

CARP = Canterbury Air Regional Plan

Relevant Rules

LWRP = 5.38-5.39 (permitted activities)

CARP = 7.3 (permitted activity).



ECan's Air Plan Rule 7.3 permits the discharge of odour, provided the discharge does not cause any offensive or objectionable effects beyond the property boundary. To minimise adverse odour effects, it is suggested consideration is given to the following:

- i) Shed ventilation with respect to wind direction and sensitive boundaries.
- ii) Shed door opening with respect to wind direction and sensitive boundaries.
- iii) Turning windrows (if composting outdoors) with respect to wind direction and sensitive boundaries.

It is recommended discussing the process with your neighbours

## Attachment

# Canterbury Regional Plans

Relevant rules for the Canterbury Region are summarised below. Refer to the Canterbury Regional Plans for full details.

### Definitions

Hazardous waste – means waste:

1. a hazardous substance; or
2. an infectious substance, or material known or reasonably expected to contain pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, rickettsia, parasites, fungi or recombinant micro-organisms (hybrid or mutant) that are known, or reasonably expected, to cause infectious disease in humans and animals that are exposed to them; or
3. radioactive material that meets the definition in Section 2 of the Radiation Protection Act 1965.

Landfill – means a site used for the deposition of solid and/or hazardous waste onto or into land.

Offal – means waste comprised of dead animal matter

Offal pit – means a hole excavated in land for the purpose of disposing of offal but does not include an on-site refuse disposal pit.

### Offal pits

#### Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan – Section 5 – Rule 24

The use of land for an offal pit and the associated discharges onto or into land in circumstances where a contaminant may enter water are permitted activities, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The discharge is to a pit that:
  - a) Has a volume of less than 50m<sup>3</sup>; and
  - b) Is sited and designed to prevent surface runoff entering the pit; and
  - c) Is designed to prevent animals from gaining access to the pit; and
2. The discharge is only of dead animals or animal parts produced on the property where the pit is located; and
3. No more than one pit is constructed or used per 100 hectares of property area per annum; and
4. When any pit is filled to within 0.5 m of the original land surface, or is no longer used, the contents are covered with soil to a depth of at least 0.5 m or the pit is covered with an impermeable lid; and
5. No discharge occurs:
  - a) within 100m of a surface water body, a bore used for water abstraction, the boundary of the site, or the Coastal Marine Area; or
  - b) within a Community Drinking-water Protection Zone as set out in Schedule 1; or
  - c) unless there is at least 3 m of soil or sand between the point of discharge and the highest groundwater level; or
  - d) within the Christchurch Groundwater Protection Zone as shown on the Planning Maps; or
  - e) onto or into land listed as an archaeological site; or
  - f) within any area or zone identified in a proposed or operative district plan for residential, commercial or industrial purposes.

## Commentary

Offal pits are limited to 50m<sup>3</sup> to be a permitted activity. Volumes exceeding this will require resource consent.

Nothing in Rule 5.24 or 5.27 prevents a pit from being used for both an offal pit and an on-site refuse disposal pit, if the conditions of Rule 5.24 and Rule 5.27 are met.

## Composting

### Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan – Rule 5.38

The use of land for a silage pit or the stockpiling of decaying organic matter (including compost) and any associated discharge into or onto land where a contaminant may enter water is a permitted activity, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The volume of any silage pit or stockpile is less than 20 m<sup>3</sup>; and
2. Any liquid that drains from the stockpile does not enter a surface water body, other than a wetland constructed primarily to treat animal effluent; and
3. Any decaying organic matter does not originate from an industrial or trade process.

### Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan – Rule 5.39

The use of land for a silage pit or the stockpiling of other decaying organic matter (including compost) not permitted by Rule 5.38 and any associated discharge into or onto land where a contaminant may enter water is a permitted activity, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The silage pit or stockpile is not sited:
  - a. within 50 m of a surface waterbody, the boundary of the property, a bore, or the Coastal Marine Area; or
  - b. within a Community Drinking-water Protection Zone as set out in Schedule 1; or
  - c. within the Christchurch Groundwater Protection Zone as shown on the Planning Maps; and
2. Any liquid that drains from the silage pit or stockpile does not enter a surface waterbody, other than a wetland constructed primarily to treat effluent; and
3. Any decaying organic matter does not originate from an industrial or trade process.

### Canterbury Air Regional Plan – Rule 7.3

The discharge of odour, dust or smoke into air that is not managed by any other rule in this Plan is a permitted activity provided the following conditions are met:

1. The discharge does not cause or is not likely to cause an adverse effect beyond the boundary of the property of origin; and
2. The discharge does not cause an offensive or objectionable effect beyond the boundary of the property of origin when assessed in accordance with Schedule 2.

## Commentary

Indoor composting of AI-impacted waste may be a permitted activity if:

- The farm is not considered an industrial process
- There is no offensive odour detected beyond the site boundary
- Leachate is contained and does not enter surface or groundwater

## 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.