



Poultry farms and their neighbours

People are often more sensitive to effects (smell, noise) if they experience them persistently or at annoying times. Sensitivity is also heightened when they can see the source, so screening helps. Here are some tips for maintaining good relationships between poultry farmers and neighbours.

- If you are a farmer, respond promptly and don't dismiss concerns. Go over to the neighbour's place and see things from their viewpoint. Find out why the problem occurred. There may be a simple solution.
- Accidental or temporary spills/smells should be dealt with promptly.
- It helps if both farmers and neighbours behave reasonably and *talk* – ongoing communication is important.
- Farmers should stay well-informed about proposed land-use changes or subdivisions near their farms – be aware of potential conflicts that may arise and raise these with the council if necessary.

In general, it is helpful if solutions to problems are developed by farmers working *with* their neighbour(s).

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Other publications in this series include:
Pigs and the Resource Management Act
Quarrying and the Resource Management Act

Poultry Production

AND THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

This brochure outlines some things poultry farmers should consider when establishing or expanding broiler or egg-laying operations. It may also be useful for neighbours, council consent staff and others in the community.



How long will it take?

- **Non-notified applications** – The statutory timeframe set down in the Resource Management Act is 20 working days. Non-notified applications are not open to public submission.
- **Notified applications** – The statutory timeframe is two to three months. Notified applications are open to public submission and will involve a council hearing.
- If the application lacks all the relevant information, the council will ask for it and can 'stop the clock' until it is received. So the actual time taken can be considerably longer.
- Don't underestimate the lead time required for consultation *and* written approvals (if needed) and compiling the application – a generous lead time (three to six months) is recommended.

Consent conditions

- If granted, a resource consent is likely to have conditions attached.
- Some councils are open to discussing conditions before they include them on a resource consent.
- Regional consents specify a maximum term, after which a new consent is needed.
- Check the timeframe within which the consent must be implemented and the duration and maximum term of the consent.
- A range of conditions might apply eg, there may be monitoring conditions and costs the applicant must meet.

Failure to comply with consent conditions risks enforcement proceedings and costs.



This guide highlights the standard requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 in relation to poultry production. Check specific requirements with both your regional and district councils.

Broiler and egg production and environmental effects

Poultry producers should use all *reasonable* measures to keep the environmental effects of their activities within the site.

Effective management combines:

- keeping odour and dust within the site as far as is reasonably practicable
- careful site selection, building location and design
- implementing *best practicable options* to control effects
- good waste management and disposal practices.

Do I need a resource consent?

Broiler and egg-laying operations involve substantial capital investment. Make sure all new and expanded activities are authorised first. You are likely to need resource consents from either or both regional and district councils. Different councils are responsible for different aspects of poultry production.

Some activities may be classed as ‘permitted’, meaning that no resource consent is required as long as certain conditions are met. Other classes of activity influence whether the council has the ability to decline your application and whether the wider community will be made aware of your proposal.

Regional council consents

Contact regional councils about:

- discharges to air, including odour, dust and particulates
- effluent storage, treatment or disposal
- taking water from rivers, streams or bores.

District or city council consents

Contact district or city councils about:

- broiler-growing and egg-laying activities
- buildings and fencing
- activities that affect amenity or involve frequent vehicle movements.

How do I get a resource consent?

Where to start

- Talk to council staff *early* when planning new or expanded operations.
- Explain the basic details – don’t assume council staff know how the operation works.
- Find out exactly what consents are required.
- Be prepared to review and adjust your proposal.

Consult with neighbours early

- Consult with people likely to be affected by your proposal.
- This means knocking on doors and talking about what you propose – well ahead of preparing an application.
- Council staff can advise you on who should be consulted.

What information do I need?

Check with the council(s) to see what information you will need. This will usually include scale plans, details of the proposal and an assessment of effects on the environment (AEE). You should describe the existing environment and the proposal, including:

- the site plan
- the current use of the property
- nearby land uses, including:
 - significant and protected features (areas of bush, streams and wetlands)
 - sensitive uses (dwellings, schools, marae, churches)
- local climate and wind direction
- location and flow of waterways
- size and type of operation (hatching, breeding, broiler, egg-laying)
- production cycles and techniques (based indoors/outdoors, odour-control technology planned)
- waste volumes and capacity
- location of waste storage facility and disposal method
- building location, scale and design
- vehicle entrances and vehicle movements.

Consent can only be granted for what is requested, so make sure *all* essential activities or processes are included. Have you considered future growth of the operation?

Generally, environmental effects include odour, dust, pests, traffic, noise and water pollution. The AEE should cover:

- whether *any* proposed activities will create effects
- how significant these effects might be
- how effects change through the production cycle
- what parts of the environment (and who) are affected
- any consultation findings
- measures you propose to mitigate (lessen) adverse effects.

Existing poultry operations

- Have there been problems? Why?
- Describe any existing unresolved adverse effects and show how you intend to manage them adequately – otherwise, expect opposition.

Do you need expert advice?

- If you need advice, seek it *early* when preparing your application(s).
- It is best to get professional advice for technical issues (eg, waste disposal, odour management).
- You can get advice from consultants, other poultry farmers and industry groups.

The council application process

- The process used depends on district and regional plan rules – ask your councils.
- It may be appropriate to get written approvals of affected parties. Councils can guide you in identifying everyone whose approval is required (owners and occupiers).
- It is the applicant’s job to get written approvals.
- The council has to publicly notify an application unless *all* approvals are obtained.