

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Chair Emmerson and Members of Regional Council

From: Paul Freeman
Chief Planner

Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.
Commissioner of Environmental Services

Date: April 13, 2021

Re: Update – York Region’s Comments on the Province’s Consultation on Growing the Size of the Greenbelt, Environmental Registry Posting #019-3136

York Region Council requested clarification on staff comments related to Growing the size of the Greenbelt

On April 8, 2021, Committee of the Whole received proposed staff comments on the Province’s Consultation to Grow the Size of the Greenbelt, Environmental Registry Posting #019-3136 ([see Item I 1.1](#)).

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide Council with additional information and clarify the intent of comments provided during the April 8, 2021 Committee of the Whole in the accompanying letter (Attachment 1).

Point one recommends that in addition to publicly owned lands, as per previous submissions to the Province by Council, that the Urban River Valley designation and related policies also apply to both public and privately-owned land that are already identified and protected as river valleys. In the Greenbelt Plan, land use permissions for Urban River Valleys are appropriately determined through local municipal official plans. The Province has identified that there will be no consideration of policy changes to the Greenbelt Plan through this consultation, and that additional public lands are what is being considered to grow the Greenbelt.

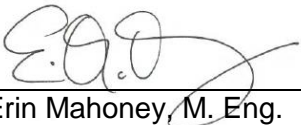
Within the initial letter, point two recommended that the Province consider areas for expansion that would improve connectivity between existing natural heritage and water resource systems.

While the relationship between natural heritage and water resources systems and urban river valleys remains important, upon further assessment and Council's comments, staff have concluded Environment Registry Posting #019-3136 is not the appropriate venue to provide this input.

A revised draft submission letter from the Region which includes these clarifications is attached. Additions to text are shown in italicized font while any removal of text is shown with a strikethrough in the attached letter. Staff have advised the Province that York Region's comments will be provided after the provincial deadline of April 19, 2021 following York Region's Council meeting on April 22, 2021.



Paul Freeman, MCIP, RPP
Chief Planner



Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.
Commissioner of Environmental Services



Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments (1)
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