

Memo

To: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
From: Town of Oakville
Date: December 2, 2022
Subject: ERO number 019-6216 – Proposed Amendments to the Greenbelt Plan and
ERO number 019-6217 – Proposed Amendments to the Greenbelt Area
boundary

Comments

The Town of Oakville is aligned with the province's goal of building 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years. The town also supports the purpose and intent sustaining the province's land use planning framework exemplified in the *Planning Act* and the 2019 Growth Plan, including the:

- protection of ecological systems, including natural areas, features and functions
- conservation of features of significant architectural, cultural, historical, archaeological or scientific interest;
- integrated planning, adequate provision and efficient use of communication, transportation, sewage and water services, waste management systems and public service facilities;
- orderly development, protection and achievement of safe, healthy & complete communities;
- adequate provision of a full range and mix of housing, including affordable housing with the prioritization of intensification in strategic growth areas;
- protection of the financial and economic well-being of the province and its municipalities;
- promotion of development that is designed to be sustainable, to support public transit and to be oriented to pedestrians; and
- integration of climate change considerations into land use planning and growth management

Land use planning for growth and development that supports economic prosperity, protects the environment and helps communities achieve a high quality of life remains pivotal for the Town of Oakville and the Province of Ontario.

The proposed addition of Fourteen Mile Creek to the Urban River Valley designation for the section from the QEW to Lake Ontario is a welcome addition. Likewise, adding portions of the Paris Galt Moraine to the Greenbelt Plan is welcome since it benefits the broader watershed within which Halton and Oakville are situated and aligns with the protections of the existing land use regime.

The Town of Oakville has regularly supported Growing the Greenbelt. These proposed additions are consistent with town comments, requests and engagements under previous provincial Growing the Greenbelt initiatives.

In conjunction with the additions contained within the town, staff note that the province is also proposing to remove or redesignate 15 areas of land from the Greenbelt Plan totalling nearly 3000 hectares that are ecologically or hydrologically important. While the province is adding 3800 hectares in other areas around the Greenbelt Plan, these new areas are not comparable to the function being lost.

The lands being removed are to be developed by 2025 with 50,000 new homes. At that density (16 units per gross hectare), it equates to further sprawl, which is not supported by town staff.

From inception, the Greenbelt Plan, in harmony with the Growth Plan, were intended to provide permanent protection for environmental lands while containing urban sprawl. Removing lands from the Greenbelt Plan for housing development undermines the basic principles of these plans.