



Hamilton

## DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

# Agricultural Impact Assessment

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### **PURPOSE:**

This document explains the guidelines for the preparation of an Agricultural Impact Assessment which may be required for the submission of an application under the *Planning Act*. All Agricultural Impact Assessments shall follow the guidelines referenced in this document. Failure to adhere to the guidelines may result in a submission being considered unsatisfactory and a submitted application being deemed incomplete.

The purpose of an Agricultural Impact Assessment is to evaluate the potential impacts of non-agricultural development on existing agricultural operations and the agricultural system and recommend ways to avoid or, if avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts. (Greenbelt Plan and Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe)

An Agricultural Impact Assessment may be requested where a development is located within the City's rural area or where a development is in close proximity to the rural area. Assessments are normally required for larger greenfield developments adjacent to the rural area.

### **PREPARED BY:**

Reports should be prepared by a qualified professional or consulting group with experience in evaluating and assessing agricultural impacts and university or college degree(s) in one or more of the following:

- agriculture, soil science, geoscience, landscape architecture, resource management-related disciplines, environmental related disciplines, agricultural engineering, or land use planning.

Qualified professionals should be knowledgeable about:

- Agri-businesses, agricultural supply chain linkages, rural/agricultural economic development in Ontario, and within the GGH, the agri-food network, where relevant;
- Rural and agricultural land use planning;
- Canada Land Inventory (CLI) classifications of capability for agriculture assessment and a practical understanding of soil science; and,

- Assessment and evaluation of the potential effectiveness of agricultural impact mitigation measures to reduce impacts.

## **CONTENTS:**

The content of an Agricultural Impact Assessment may vary depending on the type of non-agricultural use being proposed as well as other factors including scale, location, and relevant land use designations. Clarification on the exact scope of work for a required Agricultural Impact Assessment will be provided as part of the Formal Consultation Application process. A pre-study consultation with staff may be required to confirm a terms of reference prior to initiating the assessment.

All Agricultural Impact Assessments must be prepared in accordance with the standards outlined in the **Draft Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) Guidance Document** from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), as amended from time to time.

Please refer to the resource below for more details on required components of the study.

## **OTHER INFORMATION:**

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)  
Draft Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) Guidance Document, March 2018  
<http://omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/aiagd.pdf>

## **REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:**

Development Planning staff, Planning and Economic Development Department  
A peer review of an Agricultural Impact Assessment may also be required.

## **CONTACT:**

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