

May 21, 2008

Regional land-use plans

Edmonton... Under the *Draft Land-use Framework*, Alberta is divided into six regions, for which land-use plans will be developed.

Alberta's six land-use regions are based on the province's major watersheds, adjusted to best fit with existing municipal boundaries and our natural regions. The six regions are North, North-East, North-West, North-Central, South-Central and South.

Development of Regional Land-use Plans

The Cabinet Committee and Land-use Secretariat will be responsible for the development of regional plans in conjunction with government departments and Regional Advisory Councils. These advisory councils will:

- consist of members representing the range of interests within each region (e.g., provincial, municipal, industry, non-government groups, Aboriginal representatives, and other relevant planning bodies);
- provide advice on addressing trade-off decisions regarding land uses and on setting thresholds to address cumulative effects;
- be appointed by the provincial government and have a short-term mandate to provide advice on the regional plan over the course of its development;
- help ensure that the public are engaged in the regional planning process.

Regional Plans

The land-use plan for each region will reflect the vision, principles and desired outcomes of the Land-use Framework. In addition, regional plans will:

- define regional outcomes (economic, environmental and social) and a broad plan for land and natural resource use for both public and private lands within the region;
- align provincial strategies and policies at the regional level (including air, land, water and biodiversity);
- reflect the uniqueness and priorities of each region;
- determine specific trade-offs and appropriate land and natural resource management for landscapes within the region;
- define the cumulative effects management approach for the region and identify targets and thresholds;
- provide direction and context for local plans within the region;
- recognize the authority and role of municipalities in local decision-making; and
- be subject to regular reviews and public reporting.

Regional plans will be approved by Cabinet and become provincial land-use policy for the region.

Municipal Planning

Municipalities will retain their current authority and role in land-use planning and decision-making but will need to ensure their plans and decisions are consistent with regional plans. They will outline how their municipal development plans will align with and address provincial directions stated in regional plans; and amend municipal planning documents to adopt and implement regional planning directions.

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