

THE CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

File No: OP-2020-01-05
Municipality: County of Wellington
Subject Lands: All lands within the municipal boundary of the County of Wellington

Date of Adoption: April 30, 2026
Date of Notice: May 6, 2026

NOTICE OF ADOPTION
With Respect to an Amendment to the County of Wellington Official Plan
Section 17, 21 and 26 of the *Planning Act*
(Re: OPA 131 - County of Wellington)

Take Notice that on **April 30, 2026** the Corporation of the County of Wellington passed **By-law No. 5977-26** to adopt **Official Plan Amendment No. 131** to the County of Wellington Official Plan under Section 17, 21 and 26 of the *Planning Act* R.S.O. 1990 c. P. 13, as amended.

Purpose and Effect of the Official Plan Amendment

Official Plan Amendment 131 revises the County Official Plan as part of Phase 3B of the Official Plan Review. The purpose of the amendment is to align rural area policies with the 2024 Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) and update rural growth policies to address forecasted rural growth in the County. The effect of OPA 131 is to:

County-wide

- Update and revise policies for permitted uses in the prime agricultural area, for identification and protection of the Agricultural System, agricultural impact assessments, and lot creation within prime agricultural areas.
- Add a new definition “Farm Operation” to support the implementation of the Residence Surplus to a Farming Operation severance and On-farm Diversified use policy frameworks.

Erin

- Add new policy 3.5.1 to enable the Town of Erin to conduct a local review of potential options for addressing its rural residential growth shortfall, and to consider potential changes to the rural residential cut-off date in secondary agricultural areas, if warranted.
- Implement related changes by a local amendment to the Town of Erin Official Plan, if necessary.
- If applicable, any portion of Erin’s rural residential growth that is not to be utilized (deemed surplus) may be allocated to the Township of Puslinch.

Puslinch

- Change the rural residential severance cut-off date to May 1, 2025, as it applies to the secondary agricultural areas of Puslinch.
- Expand the secondary urban centre boundary of Aberfoyle and identify new land use designations.
- Add a local policy area (PA7-12) to lands along Maltby Road within the expanded Aberfoyle boundary to phase future residential development and clarify site specific development considerations.
- Designate new rural employment area lands, implement site-specific policies and modify the existing Puslinch Industrial Area policies.
- Housekeeping changes to align land use designations and policy areas with property boundaries.

Other changes apply to employment area conversions, rural clusters and severances.

Subject Lands

The lands subject to OPA 131 include the entire County of Wellington. There are also specific policy changes that apply to the Town of Erin and the Township of Puslinch, and scoped changes applicable to the Town of Minto and Township of Centre Wellington. Map changes apply to specific lands in the Township of Puslinch.

Effect of Written and Oral Submissions

Comments were received and considered throughout the development of OPA 131 including Indigenous consultation. Written and oral submissions made during the statutory public meetings were considered by staff and County Council. A summary of all comments submitted, and staff responses can be found on the County's Official Plan Review page in Planning Committee Report PD2026-08 accessed here:

www.wellington.ca/planwell

Public Access to Information

Copies of adopted OPA131 and additional information about the amendment are available for public inspection during regular office hours (8:30 – 4:00 p.m.) at the location below:

County of Wellington
Planning and Development Department
74 Woolwich Street, 3rd Floor
Guelph ON, N1H 3T9

Public access to the adopted OPA 131 is also available on the County Website at:

www.wellington.ca/planwell

Provincial Approval Process

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the Minister) is the approval authority of OPA 131. OPA 131 will be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for final approval. If you wish to be notified of the Ministry's decision in respect to the proposed amendment, you must make a written request to the Ministry at the following address. Any person or public body will be entitled to receive notice of the Ministry's decision if a written request to be notified of the decision is made directly to the Ministry as noted below.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Attention: Mr. Ian Kerr, Regional Director
Western Municipal Services Office
659 Exeter Road, 2nd Floor
London, ON N6E 1L3
Telephone: (519) 873-4026
Toll Free: 1-800-265-4736
Fax: (519) 873-4018

Dated May 6, 2026

Clerk, County of Wellington
Administration Centre
74 Woolwich Street, Guelph ON N1H 3T9
Telephone: (519) 837-2600
Fax: (519) 837-1901