

# Memo

To: Mayon Burton and Members of Council  
From: Planning Services department  
CC: Neil Garbe, Commissioner, Community Development  
Date: December 1, 2023  
Subject: Bill 136 - Proposal to return lands to the Greenbelt - *Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023*

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## Comments

In December 2022, the provincial government removed 15 areas of land totaling approximately 7,400 acres from the edge of the Greenbelt Area. Since then, the government has acknowledged that the process for the 2022 Greenbelt removals was not transparent. In response, the government has proposed legislative amendments that if passed, would have multiple effects on the Greenbelt Area.

1) Greenbelt Area removals would be restored – The 15 areas that were removed in December 2022, are proposed by Bill 136 to be added back to the Greenbelt Area. The areas implicated in this part of the legislation are located outside Oakville’s municipal boundary. Town staff has no concerns with this aspect of the proposal.

2) Lands previously added to the Greenbelt Area will gain increased protection – This aspect of the proposed legislation affects lands within Oakville’s municipal boundary. These are the Greenbelt Areas designated “Urban River Valley” in the Greenbelt Plan located along Sixteen Mile Creek, Bronte Creek and Fourteen Mile Creek.

The proposed legislation in Bill 136 would amend the *Greenbelt Act, 2005*, to add legal descriptions of these Greenbelt Areas into the Act proper. Any future changes to the designations of these areas would require actual amendments to the legislation.

This represents an increased level of protection since the Minister is presently able to re-designate these areas by way of a regulation. Further, the regulation providing for this type of Minister’s decision would be repealed by the legislation once passed. Staff has no concerns with this aspect of the proposal.

Should there be any questions or follow-up, please contact the undersigned.

Gabe Charles, Director, Planning Services

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