

## Rural Areas (section 2.2.9) – Substantive Changes

Grey highlighted strikethrough text = text to be deleted

**Bolded text** = text to be added

Proposed Policy Change	Revised Policy	Staff Comments & Suggested Modifications
<p>2.2.9.7 Notwithstanding policy                  2.2.8.2, minor adjustments may be made to the boundaries of <i>rural settlements</i> outside of a <i>municipal comprehensive review</i>, subject to the following:</p> <p>a. the affected <i>settlement area</i> is not in the <i>Greenbelt Area</i>;                  b. the change would constitute minor rounding out of existing development, in keeping with the rural character of the area;                  c. confirmation that water and wastewater servicing can be provided in an appropriate manner that is suitable for the long term; and                  d. Sections 2 (Wise Use and Management of Resources) and 3 (Protecting Public Health and Safety) of the PPS are applied.</p>	<p>2.2.9.7 Notwithstanding policy                  2.2.8.2, minor adjustments may be made to the boundaries of <i>rural settlements</i> outside of a <i>municipal comprehensive review</i>, subject to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the affected <i>settlement area</i> is not in the <i>Greenbelt Area</i>;</li> <li>2. the change would constitute minor rounding out of existing development, in keeping with the rural character of the area;</li> <li>3. confirmation that water and wastewater servicing can be provided in an appropriate manner that is suitable for the long term; and</li> <li>4. Sections 2 (Wise Use and Management of Resources) and 3 (Protecting Public Health and Safety) of the PPS are applied.</li> </ol>	<p><u>Do not support</u></p> <p>This policy allows for minor adjustments to be made to the boundaries of rural settlement areas which are located outside of the Greenbelt Plan area. Staff note that this policy would not be applied in Hamilton as all of Hamilton’s rural settlement areas are within the Greenbelt area. However, staff are concerned about the precedent that this policy could set and for future pressures to allow expansion of rural settlement areas within the Greenbelt. Rural settlement areas are generally dependent on private services and are not intended to experience any appreciable growth. Any allowance for the expansion of rural settlement area boundaries would be contrary to the goals of the provincial policy statement and the Rural Hamilton Official Plan to protect rural and agricultural lands and the natural environment.</p>