

Agricultural Land Reserve Exclusion Procedure

Effective Date: September 10, 2024

Last Revised:

1. Purpose

This policy establishes the procedure for processing an application received from a private landowner to exclude land from the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

In accordance with section 29(1) of the *Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act*, private landowners are not able to submit an ALR exclusion application directly to the ALC. The City may apply to the ALC for an exclusion for land within its jurisdiction. For certainty, there is no legislative requirement that the City apply to the ALC on behalf of a landowner.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all requests from private landowners who wish to exclude their land from the ALR.

3. Exclusions

This policy does not apply to land owned by the City of Pitt Meadows.

4. Definitions

In this policy,

- (1) **ALC** means the Agricultural Land Commission.
- (2) **ALR** means Agricultural Land Reserve.
- (3) **City** means the City of Pitt Meadows.
- (4) **Council** means the City of Pitt Meadows City Council.
- (5) **Director** means the Director responsible for planning and development, or their delegate.
- (6) **Exclusion application** means an application submitted by the City to the ALC to have land removed from the ALR.

- (7) **Exclusion request** means a written request received by the City from a private landowner to appeal to City Council to submit an exclusion application to the ALC as per section 29 of the ALC Act.
- (8) **Requestor** means a private landowner who submits an exclusion request to the City.

5. Policy Statements

- (1) The City of Pitt Meadows recognizes the importance of the ALR, including the preservation of agricultural land through protection of the size, integrity, and continuity of the ALR land base. The protection of farmland for farming is a key priority for the City, as reflected in City plans, policies, and regulations.
- (2) ALR exclusions are generally not supported. An exclusion application should only be considered in cases of alignment with the Official Community Plan, or when the proposed exclusion is considered to provide a significant community benefit.

6. Roles & Responsibilities

- (1) The Requestor is responsible for submitting all pertinent information required for an exclusion request, as determined by the Director, and paying all relevant fees and costs.
- (2) The Director is responsible for:
 - a. establishing application requirements for exclusion requests; and
 - b. receiving and reviewing exclusion requests and presenting exclusion application recommendations to Council.
- (3) Council has full discretion in deciding whether an exclusion application will be pursued with the ALC.

7. Procedures and Guidelines

- (1) Prior to submission of an exclusion request, a private landowner will confirm the submission requirements with the City's Planning Department.
- (2) An exclusion request will be accompanied by the appropriate fee for "Other Council Resolutions or Bylaw Amendments" as indicated in the *Development Application Fee Bylaw*.
- (3) The Director will prepare a report to Council, introducing the proposal and providing a staff recommendation on whether or not to pursue an exclusion application. The recommendation will be informed by City plans and policies,

including but not limited to, the Official Community Plan and Agricultural Viability Strategy.

- (4) If it is recommended that an exclusion application be pursued, the Director will outline recommended next steps and other required applications, as applicable.
- (5) Any costs associated with an exclusion application will be borne by the requestor, including but not limited to: advertising, public hearing, signage, technical and supporting documentation, and notices.