

## Overarching AEPA Land-Use Planning Key Message

Continued engagement between policy makers and agricultural stakeholders is critical to ensure agricultural interests are reflected in Alberta's land-use planning. It is important to fully understand the impacts of topics such as cumulative effects management, water quality and quantity, and ecosystem services on the agriculture industry. Land-use planning helps the agriculture industry expand and operate in an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable manner.

## Expected Land-Use Planning Outcomes

AEPA has identified outcomes for Alberta's agriculture industry that need to be considered in land-use planning. Land-use planning needs to continue to recognize agriculture as an important renewable resource generating future food<sup>i</sup> and economic activity. The agriculture industry understands land and water policy issues are linked; these should be addressed together.

Continued engagement between policy makers and agricultural stakeholders is critical ensuring that agricultural interests are reflected in land-use planning. The agriculture industry needs to be fully engaged setting objectives for air, land, water, and biodiversity established under management frameworks.

### AEPA Key Messages:

- The agriculture industry supports good stewardship practices (land, water, air, and biodiversity) reducing agriculture's impacts on the environment.
- The agriculture industry should be able to expand and operate in an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable manner.
- Land-use plans and management frameworks<sup>ii</sup> that encourage or require agriculture practice change should not create a cost burden for agriculture producers.
- Achieving management framework objectives<sup>iii</sup> requires realistic implementation timelines by the agriculture industry.
- Education, awareness and incentives should be considered critical strategic tools helping the agriculture industry achieve suitable environmental outcomes.
- Emerging agricultural opportunities should be recognized and encouraged by the Government of Alberta, and supported through research, education, and policy implementation.

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<sup>i</sup> Food is one of several ecosystem services (benefits received from healthy, functioning ecosystems) provided by agriculture land. Other examples include water quality, nutrient cycling, and bioproducts such as fibre.

<sup>ii</sup> Management Frameworks: Identify desired regional objectives, as well as approaches and actions to achieve objectives.

<sup>iii</sup> Objectives: Provide clear boundaries and establish the direction for environmental management in a given place.