

Appendix E: Template for RAMP Regional Context Statements

Following approval of the Plan, Regional Context Statements will be a critical piece to support implementation by identifying how the objectives and policies embedded within the Regional Agriculture Master Plan (RAMP) will impact municipal plans.

This template is intended to provide member municipalities with a basic structure for the completion of a RAMP Regional Context Statement in accordance with RAMP Section 9: Roles and Responsibilities. EMRB member municipalities will need to, *“Complete a RAMP Regional Context Statement within one year of RAMP approval by the Government of Alberta,”* and *“Update their Municipal Development Plan (MDP) within two years of RAMP approval by the Province of Alberta, or as part of any updates required by the 5 Year Interim Review of the growth plan, whichever occurs first.”*

Members are required to demonstrate how their existing municipal development plans (MDPs) conform with or diverge from the new policies and objectives embedded within RAMP, and to indicate how they plan to bring their MDPs into compliance. This template represents the minimum information required to be submitted, members may choose to provide a more detailed Regional Context Statement. In some cases, municipalities may consider changes to their land use bylaws, as a way to implement RAMP policies.

In **Part 1: RAMP Framework, Policy Areas and Agricultural Areas**, members are required to indicate the relevant RAMP Policy Areas and identification of Prime Agricultural Areas that apply to their municipality as per **Schedule B** and **Schedule G**. Additionally, municipalities are to review MDPs to ensure consistency with the RAMP Framework, including policy definitions that have been developed.

In **Part 2: RAMP Policies**, under ‘Consistency Requirements’ members are required to identify the policies that are applicable based on the relevant Policy Area and identification of Prime Agricultural Areas.

Part 1: RAMP Framework, Policy Areas and Agricultural Areas

RAMP Framework	Consistency Requirement	MDP Response	Action Required
Policy Definitions		Current MDP has definitions related to primary industry that align with provincial and federal definitions related to agriculture.	Review RAMP definitions to assess if adjustments are required to either the MDP and/or the LUB.
Identify relevant RAMP Policy Areas	<i>Schedule B is not intended to create agricultural boundaries - the policy area map is considered conceptual.</i>	Current MDP Implementation Framework identifies Neighbourhood Policy Areas which provide general direction for agricultural areas.	Update the MDP where necessary to reflect RAMP Policy Areas using RAMP Schedule B as a baseline and develop MDP policies as appropriate.
Identify relevant Prime Agricultural Areas	<i>Schedule A identifies Prime Agricultural Lands only. Prime Agricultural Areas are to be delineated in detail by member municipalities.</i>	Current MDP identifies prime agricultural soils as per the Canada Land Inventory - Land Capability for Agriculture.	Update the MDP where necessary to reflect RAMP Prime Agricultural Areas using RAMP Schedule A as a baseline and develop MDP policies as appropriate.
Identify relevant All Other Agricultural Areas	<i>Schedule A identifies Prime Agricultural Lands only. All Other Agricultural Areas are to be delineated in detail by member municipalities.</i>	Current MDP highlights the importance of soils that are lower grade according to the Canada Land Inventory - Land Capability for Agriculture.	Update the MDP where necessary to reflect RAMP All Other Agricultural Areas using RAMP Schedule A as a baseline and develop MDP policies as appropriate.
Identify relevant Specialty Agriculture Lands	<i>Specialty Agriculture Lands are not spatially defined in RAMP. As per definition, specialty agriculture may be located anywhere where unique conditions exist.</i>	Current MDP does not identify specific specialty agriculture lands.	RAMP definition will be utilized as a baseline to develop appropriate MDP policy as appropriate.

Part 2: RAMP Policies

Policy Area	RAMP Policy	Consistency Requirement	MDP Response	Action Required
Policy Area 1: Rural Agriculture	Policy 1: Agriculture is the priority land use in Policy Area 1.		Current MDP sets agriculture as the County's priority land use as per the Growth Strategy Concept Map.	Currently implied in the MDP, embed additional RAMP direction within the MDP where applicable.
	Policy 2: Policies must be included in statutory plans to enable the continuation, development, and expansion of all types, sizes and intensities of agriculture throughout Policy Area 1.		Current MDP sets expectations for statutory plans as per the Growth Strategy Concept Map.	Currently implied in the MDP, embed additional RAMP direction within the MDP where applicable.
	Policy 3: Agricultural uses that follow generally accepted agricultural practices must be able to operate in suitable locations without being unduly encumbered or hindered by non-agricultural development, or by adjacent land uses in neighbouring Policy Areas.		Current MDP sets agriculture of primary importance as per the Growth Strategy Concept Map. Agricultural uses are permitted to operate in accordance with parameters outlined in Land Use Bylaw.	Currently implied in the MDP, embed additional RAMP direction within the MDP and/or LUB where applicable.
	Policy 4: Prime agricultural lands will be conserved in prime agricultural areas to provide a secure, long-term local food source for future generations.		Current MDP champions the long-term sustainability and viability of Sturgeon County's agricultural heritage.	Currently implied in the MDP, embed additional RAMP direction within the MDP where appropriate.
	Policy 5: Prime agricultural areas and all other agriculture areas will be informed by the outcomes of the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) tool and designated in statutory plans.	<i>Designation of Prime Agricultural Areas</i>	Current MDP Implementation Framework identifies Neighbourhood Policy Areas which provide general direction for agricultural areas.	RAMP Schedule B will be used as a baseline to develop appropriate policies where applicable.

	<p>Policy 6: Specialty agricultural land may be identified in either prime agricultural areas or in all other agricultural areas.</p>		<p>Current MDP does not identify specific specialty agriculture lands.</p>	<p>RAMP definition will be utilized as a baseline to develop appropriate policy where applicable.</p>
	<p>Policy 7: Two or more municipalities that share a prime agricultural area(s) must coordinate the designation of the area to recognize the geographic continuity.</p>	<p><i>RAMP Schedule A identifies two (2) areas; one along Parkland County and another along City of St. Albert.</i></p>	<p>Corresponding areas within Parkland County and St. Albert are already identified for future non-agricultural growth (RAMP Policy Area 2 and 3 respectively).</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
	<p>Policy 8: Agriculture uses, agriculture-related uses, value-added agriculture uses, and on-farm diversified uses are supported throughout Policy Area 1.</p>		<p>Current MDP sets agriculture of primary importance as per the Growth Strategy Concept Map.</p> <p>Agricultural uses are permitted to operate in accordance with parameters outlined in Land Use Bylaw.</p>	<p>Currently implied in the MDP, embed additional RAMP direction within the MDP and/or LUB where applicable.</p>
	<p>Policy 9: Notwithstanding Policy 8, agriculture-related uses and value-added agriculture uses must not hinder agricultural operations in the surrounding area.</p>		<p>Current MDP champions the long- term sustainability and viability of Sturgeon County's agricultural heritage, while enabling appropriate value-added opportunities.</p>	<p>Currently implied in the MDP, embed additional RAMP direction within the MDP and/or LUB where appropriate.</p>
	<p>Policy 10: Agriculture-related uses and value-added agriculture uses should be directed to lower capability agricultural lands when possible.</p>		<p>Current MDP champions the long- term sustainability and viability of Sturgeon County's agricultural heritage, while encouraging agricultural related uses on lower quality soils.</p>	<p>Currently implied in the MDP, embed additional RAMP direction within the MDP and/or LUB where applicable.</p>

	<p>Policy 11: Development of agriculture-related uses and value-added agriculture uses should minimize the amount of agricultural land taken out of production.</p>		<p>Current MDP champions the long-term sustainability and viability of Sturgeon County's agricultural heritage, while minimizing amount of agricultural land taken out of production.</p>	<p>Currently implied in the MDP, embed additional RAMP direction within the MDP and/or LUB where applicable.</p>
	<p>Policy 12: Consideration should be given to directing agriculture-related, and value-added agricultural uses to cluster sites.</p>	<p><i>Identification of cluster sites</i></p>	<p>Current MDP does not identify specific cluster sites.</p>	<p>RAMP definition will be utilized as a baseline to develop appropriate policy where applicable.</p>
	<p>Policy 13: Non-agricultural uses are discouraged in prime agricultural areas.</p>		<p>Current MDP sets agriculture of primary importance as per the Growth Strategy Concept Map.</p>	<p>Currently implied in the MDP, embed additional RAMP direction within the MDP where applicable.</p>
	<p>Policy 14: Non-agricultural uses may be considered in all other agricultural areas and should be minimized to maintain agriculture as the priority land use pursuant to Policy 1.</p>	<p><i>Designation of All Other Agricultural Areas</i></p>	<p>Current MDP sets agriculture of primary importance as per the Growth Strategy Concept Map.</p> <p>Non-agricultural uses are permitted to operate in accordance with parameters outlined in Land Use Bylaw.</p>	<p>Currently implied in the MDP, embed additional RAMP direction within the MDP and/or LUB where applicable.</p>
	<p>Policy 15: Consideration should be given to directing non-agricultural uses to lower capability land, where possible or to cluster sites</p>		<p>Current MDP champions the long-term sustainability and viability of Sturgeon County's agricultural heritage, while encouraging non-agricultural related uses to areas with low quality soils.</p>	<p>Partially implied in current MDP, embed additional RAMP direction within the MDP where applicable.</p>

	<p>Policy 16: In prime agricultural areas, development of in-situ, resource-based economic assets such as coal, sand and/or gravel, marl, and peat may be considered.</p>		<p>The current MDP balances the competing demands of primary industries within the County.</p>	<p>Currently implied in the MDP, embed additional RAMP direction within the MDP where applicable.</p>
	<p>Policy 17: In prime agricultural areas, other non-agricultural uses may only be considered, preferably on lower capability land if it can be demonstrated that other locations in all other agricultural areas or at cluster sites are not feasible. An Agricultural Impact Assessment is required to confirm the proposed use will not hinder the agricultural operations in the surrounding area.</p>		<p>Current MDP champions the long-term sustainability and viability of Sturgeon County's agricultural heritage, while encouraging non-agricultural related uses to areas with low quality soils.</p>	<p>Currently implied in the MDP, embed additional RAMP direction within the MDP in accordance with requirements of an Agricultural Impact Assessment where applicable.</p>
	<p>Policy 18: Subdivision Policy Criteria:</p> <p>Prime agricultural areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Subdivision of a residential parcel for an existing Farmstead should be considered. b. Subdivision of land for agriculture, agriculture-related, and value-added agriculture uses may be considered. c. Subdivision for a new residential parcel from a quarter section with no existing residential use may be considered subject to Policy 15. d. Subdivision for non-agricultural 	<p><i>Identify MDP subdivision policy and how RAMP subdivision criteria will be implemented</i></p>	<p>Current MDP provides baseline agricultural subdivision parameters and maximum agricultural density requirements.</p>	<p>Agriculture subdivision direction for Prime Agricultural Areas and All Other Agricultural Areas will be considered in conjunction with the development of the County's Agriculture Master Plan.</p> <p>RAMP subdivision policy criteria will be utilized as a baseline to develop appropriate policies where applicable.</p>

	<p>uses is discouraged and may only be considered subject to Policies 15 and 17.</p> <p>All Other Agricultural Areas</p> <p>e. Subdivision of a residential parcel for an existing Farmstead should be considered.</p> <p>f. Subdivision of land for agriculture, agriculture-related, and value-added agriculture uses may be considered.</p> <p>g. Subdivision for a new residential parcel from a quarter section with no existing residential use may be considered subject to Policy 15.</p> <p>h. Subdivision for non-agricultural uses may be considered subject to Policy 15.</p>			
	<p>Policy 19: Subdivision of agricultural land should result in parcels sized appropriately for the type of agriculture use(s) common in the area and sufficiently large to maintain flexibility for future changes in the type or size of agricultural operations.</p>		<p>Current MDP provides baseline agricultural subdivision parameters and maximum agricultural density requirements.</p>	<p>Additional agriculture subdivision considerations will be assessed in conjunction with the development of the County's Agriculture Master Plan.</p>
	<p>Policy 20: Subdivision for any purpose should minimize the amount of agricultural land taken out of production and must not hinder the operation of</p>		<p>Current MDP provides baseline agricultural subdivision parameters and maximum agricultural</p>	<p>Additional agriculture subdivision considerations will be assessed in conjunction with the development of the County's Agriculture Master Plan.</p>

	surrounding agricultural land uses.		density requirements.	
	Policy 21: Consideration must be given to directing subdivision for agriculture-related, value-added and non-agricultural land uses to cluster sites and wherever possible to lower capability land.		Current MDP provides baseline agricultural subdivision parameters and maximum agricultural density requirements.	Additional agriculture subdivision considerations will be assessed in conjunction with the development of the County's Agriculture Master Plan.
	Policy 22: Subdivision policies for prime agricultural areas apply to specialty agriculture land.		Current MDP provides baseline agricultural subdivision parameters and maximum agricultural density requirements.	Additional agriculture subdivision considerations will be assessed in conjunction with the development of the County's Agriculture Master Plan.

<p>Policy Area 2: Agriculture Co- exists with Other Land Uses</p>	<p>Policy 1: Agricultural lands co- exist with existing designated land uses and shall remain in agricultural use until required for conversion.</p>		<p>Current MDP and approved Area Structure Plans include sufficient policy that reflects RAMP direction.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
	<p>Policy 2: Reclaimed lands should be rehabilitated for agriculture uses. Where it may be more appropriate, reclaimed lands may be rehabilitated for environmental or ecological purposes, or for commercial, industrial, institutional or recreational uses that can leverage existing infrastructure.</p>		<p>Current MDP and approved Area Structure Plans include sufficient policy that reflects RAMP direction.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
	<p>Policy 3: When applications are made to re-designate and/or re-district non- agricultural lands, consideration must be given to re-designating and/or re-districting the lands for agricultural uses.</p>		<p>Current MDP and approved Area Structure Plans include sufficient policy that reflects RAMP direction.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
	<p>Policy 4: Agriculture related and value-added agriculture uses may be considered but must not hinder the operation of agricultural operations in the surrounding area, nor hinder the development of a designated non- agricultural use.</p>		<p>Current MDP and approved Area Structure Plans include sufficient policy that reflects RAMP direction.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
	<p>Policy 5: Existing agricultural operations shall be given consideration to be kept as an existing land use within statutory plans.</p>		<p>Current MDP and approved Area Structure Plans include sufficient policy that reflects RAMP direction.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>

<p>Policy Area 3: Agriculture in Future Transition Lands</p>	<p>Policy 1: Agricultural lands in Policy Area 3 will remain in agriculture use until the lands are needed for population and/or employment growth.</p>		<p>Current MDP and approved Area Structure Plans include sufficient policy that reflects RAMP direction.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
	<p>Policy 2: Subdivision and development should be limited to maintain large parcel sizes to support ongoing agricultural operations until the lands are needed for population and/or employment growth.</p>		<p>Current MDP and approved Area Structure Plans include sufficient policy that reflects RAMP direction.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
	<p>Policy 3: Until the lands are needed for population and/or growth, agricultural producers must have access to their agricultural lands to farm their lands. This includes but is not limited to maintaining field approaches and local roads sufficient to accommodate agricultural machinery.</p>		<p>Current MDP and approved Area Structure Plans include sufficient policy that reflects RAMP direction.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
	<p>Policy 4: Consideration must be given to public education about the daily and seasonal operational needs of agriculture and agricultural operators, in order to increase awareness and understanding and reduce conflict.</p>		<p>Current MDP and approved Area Structure Plans include sufficient policy that reflects RAMP direction.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
	<p>Policy 5: Existing agricultural operations shall be given consideration to be kept as an existing land use supported by an urban agriculture plan.</p>		<p>Current MDP and approved Area Structure Plans include sufficient policy that reflects RAMP direction.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>

<p>Policy Area 4: Urban Agriculture</p>	<p>Policy 1: Urban agriculture plans will be prepared for each member municipality with an urban or rural center and is encouraged for Hamlets with a minimum population of 500. (See Appendix 1 – Urban Agriculture Plan Guidelines).</p>	<p><i>Identify the requirement for an Urban Agriculture Plan</i></p>	<p>County does not have an urban or rural centre within its jurisdiction.</p> <p>County Hamlets do not meet criteria warranting an urban agriculture plan.</p>	<p>Urban agriculture policy recommendation for Hamlets as they grown and develop will be considered in conjunction with the development of the County's Agriculture Master Plan.</p>
	<p>Policy 2: Existing agricultural operations shall be given consideration to be kept as an existing land use and supported by an urban agriculture plan.</p>	<p><i>Identify potential operations for consideration</i></p>	<p>Current MDP and approved Area Structure Plans include sufficient policy that reflects RAMP direction.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
	<p>Policy 3: Policies must be included in statutory plans to enable urban agriculture in suitable locations throughout Policy Area 4.</p>		<p>Current MDP and approved Area Structure Plans include sufficient policy that reflects RAMP direction.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
	<p>Policy 4: Value-added agriculture uses will be considered in this policy area.</p>		<p>Current MDP and approved Area Structure Plans include sufficient policy that reflects RAMP direction.</p>	<p>No action required.</p>

Implementation	5.1 Agricultural Land and Soils	<i>EMRB to provide monitoring direction to ensure regional implementation.</i>	The MDP will champion the baseline data from the LESA outputs.	No action required.
	5.2 Land Use	<i>EMRB to provide monitoring direction to ensure regional implementation.</i>	The MDP will champion the policy directions on Land Use from RAMP.	No action required.
	5.3 Agricultural System	<i>EMRB to provide monitoring direction to ensure regional implementation.</i>	The MDP will champion the policy directions regarding Agricultural Systems from RAMP.	No action required.