

THE FUTURE OF ONTARIO'S CLOSE TO MARKET AGGREGATE SUPPLY: The 2015 Provincial Plan Review

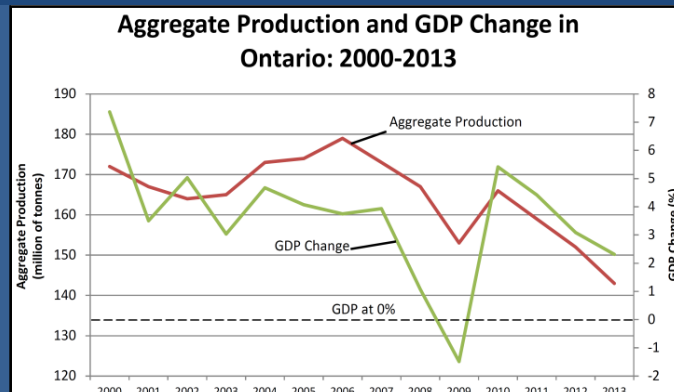
The Provincial Plans must ensure the availability of close to market aggregate. Why is this important?

- There are significant environmental and economic benefits due to reduced transportation costs and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) requires over 2 billion tonnes of aggregate to sustain growth and build infrastructure.
- Provincial Plan Areas supply 35% of GGH's total aggregate needs.
- Provincial Plan Areas contain high quality aggregate resources.
- Only 0.6% of the Plan Areas are under active extraction.
- The Provincial Plans protect the environment. Allowing extraction creates opportunities for public greenspace and agricultural after uses.



Making aggregate resources available within the Provincial Plan Areas is required to meet the high quality aggregate demands of the GGH, replace diminishing supplies and reduce environmental and economic impacts of importing aggregate further from market.

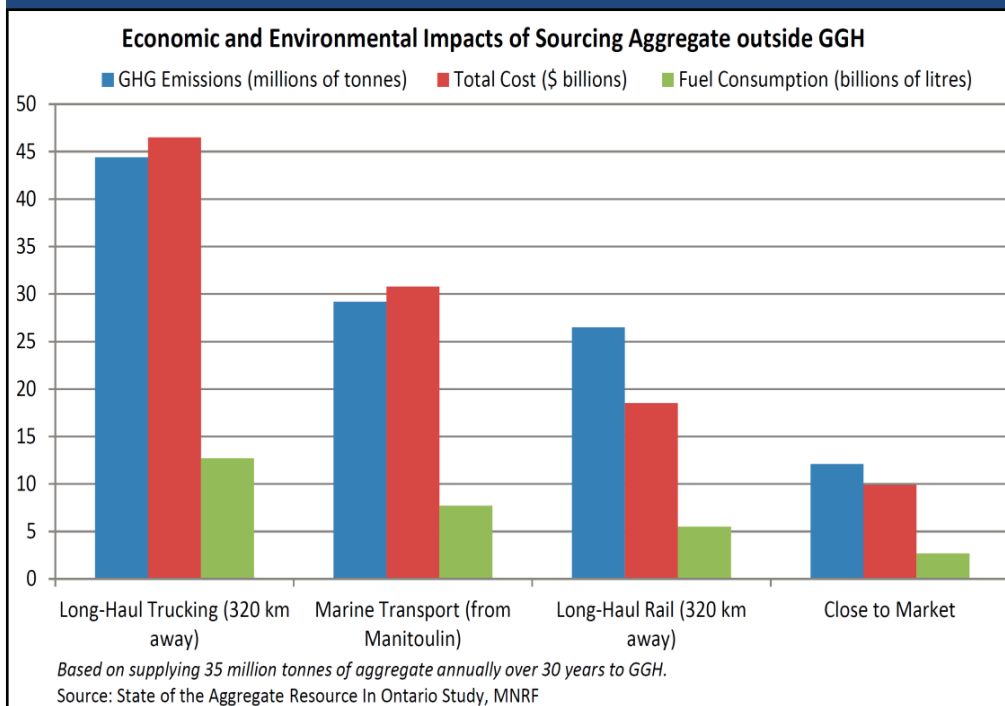
- The GGH has a major infrastructure deficit. The Province is investing more than \$130 billion in public infrastructure over 10 years.
- GGH requires over 2 billion tonnes of aggregate over the next 25 years to build and maintain required infrastructure.
- 90-100 million tonnes of aggregate per year (more than half of Ontario's total consumption).
- High quality aggregate resources are needed to build higher density developments and the infrastructure required by the Growth Plan.
- Geologically, the Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt contain very high quality deposits of limestone and sand and gravel, critical to the construction of high quality infrastructure in the GGH.
- These Plan Areas supply 35% of GGH's total aggregate needs.
- Replacement of licenced reserves is not keeping up with depletion rates in the GGH. Provincial studies anticipate the need for new supply.



Aggregate production is closely tied to economic conditions and the GDP. A sustainable economy requires the availability of close to market aggregate.



Just like locally sourced food, using close to market aggregates significantly reduces environmental and economic impacts.



"Extracting aggregate resources close to where they are being utilized can also be considered the most environmentally sensitive alternative. Trucking resources long distances increases greenhouse gas emissions, which is one of the top environmental concerns in the world today" (MNRF).

Adding 15 million tonnes of greenhouse gases is comparable to losing the air quality benefits that a 42,700 ha forest provides annually (almost three times the size of Downtown Toronto).

Saving 5 billion litres of fuel is enough fuel to provide electricity to 1.6 million homes for one year.

The aggregate industry's footprint is small and rehabilitation is contributing to the goals of the Provincial Plans.

Did you know?

- The Provincial Plan Areas cover 805,000 ha. Only 1.5% of this land area is licenced for extraction and just 0.6% is subject to active extraction (i.e. disturbed area).
- Of the 4.9 million ha of prime agricultural land in southern Ontario, only 0.7% contains a licenced aggregate operation. Many of these sites are being rehabilitated back to agriculture.
- Aggregate extraction is an interim use. The amount of rehabilitated land in surrendered licences exceeds what has been added by new licences.
 - Since 1990, over 3,000 ha (100+ licences) have been surrendered and returned to other uses within the Plan Areas. After uses include natural heritage areas, publicly accessible greenspace and agricultural land.
- Since approval of the Provincial Plans, only 0.1% of the Plan Areas have been licenced for aggregate operations (22 licences).

Specialty Crop Rehabilitation at Lafarge Fonthill Pit, Town of Pelham



Conservation Management Rehabilitation at Dufferin Milton Quarry



Public Recreation Rehabilitation at Aecon Pinchin Pit, Town of Caledon



Aggregate within Provincial Plan Areas – small footprint, minimal risk and important source:

	Niagara Escarpment Plan	Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan	Greenbelt Plan
Size (Plan Area)	195,184 ha	190,354 ha	420,000 ha
Licensed for Extraction	2,909 ha (1.5%)	5,040 ha (2.6%)	4,290 ha (1%)
Under Active Extraction	1,397 ha (0.7%)	1,597 ha (0.8%)	1,509 ha (0.4%)
Surrendered Licences (since 1990)	20 (444 ha or 0.2%)	38 (1,174 ha or 0.6%)	50 (1,402 ha or 0.3%)
Approved Licences (since Plan enactment)	12 (552 ha or 0.3%)	7 (174 ha or 0.1%)	3 (149 ha or 0.04%)
Pending Applications	1 (35 ha or 0.02%)	5 (149 ha or 0.08%)	10 (526 ha or 0.1%)
2013 Production	9.7 million tonnes	8.1 million tonnes	10.5 million tonnes
% of GGH Consumption (2013)	12%	10%	13%

Specialty Crop Rehabilitation at Walker Vineland Quarry, Town of Lincoln



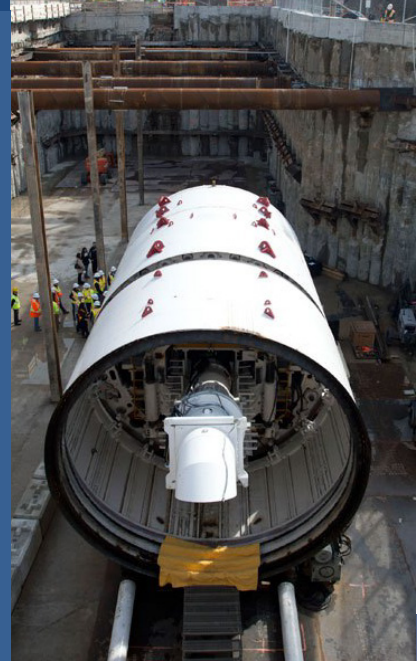
Under current Provincial Plans, only environmentally acceptable sites that contribute to long term ecological integrity or agricultural production can be approved.

Within the Provincial Plan Areas, there is strong protection for significant environmental features. Locations where extraction may be considered are limited. Stringent tests have to be met before new extraction can proceed. The rehabilitation bar is set high.

Key Recommendations for Provincial Plan Review

1. New prohibitions on aggregate extraction should not be considered.
2. The public interest in close to market aggregate supply can only be achieved if Provincial Plans contain reasonable policies to make aggregate available.
3. The need for revisions should be based on implementation experiences with operations approved since each of the Plans came into effect.
4. Changes to land use designations and expansions of Provincial Plans can have major impacts on availability of close to market resources. Decisions to expand or increase areas and designations must consider impacts on resource availability.
5. To improve implementation, the Provincial Plans should have consistent policies related to natural heritage, agriculture, water and aggregate resources.
6. The Greenbelt Plan is the newest Provincial Plan and creates an appropriate balance between environmental, agricultural, water and aggregate resources. The strong fundamentals which recognize the Provincial interest in aggregate resources must be maintained and upheld.
7. Aggregate extraction is a prohibited use in some areas of the Provincial Plans. However, some of these areas do not contain environmental features. A review of the policies within these areas should be considered since rehabilitation could enhance the lands.
8. In environmental areas, a higher standard for rehabilitation could be required to promote biodiversity.
9. Municipal official plans should defer to the policies of the Provincial Plans to protect the provincial interest in aggregate resources and to avoid conflicting policies.
10. Provincial Plans should contain policies to promote aggregate recycling.

Construction of Eglinton Crosstown LRT



Wetland Rehabilitation at Nelson Burlington Quarry



The statistics in this brief are based on published Government sources and data provided by MNR. For these sources and additional details, please refer to the “**2015 Provincial Plan Review, Aggregate Industry Discussion Paper, April 30, 2015**”.

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