

HRM needs better plans to meet expected demand for industrial land, Auditor General, Evangeline Colman-Sadd, said in her report released today, December 14, 2022.

In 2020, HRM forecasted industrial land demand to 2039. However, the audit found long-term plans are not adequate to ensure sufficient supply. While there are short-term plans to increase supply in Burnside, there were no similar detailed plans for other HRM industrial park properties. The audit found HRM's Corporate Real Estate group and the Planning and Development business unit need to collaborate better to assist with planning. "Regional Council set a strategic priority to ensure sufficient industrial land is available. We expected HRM management to have better plans, with identified milestones and timeframes, to help achieve this" the auditor general said.

The audit found that HRM industrial land sales were consistent with municipal policy, and management was appropriately involved industrial park development activities.

The audit also found some improvements are needed to land and building acquisition and disposal processes, including better data management.

Management agreed to implement all seven audit recommendations.

The report is available on the auditor general's website.

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In her report released today, December 14, 2022, Auditor General Evangeline Colman-Sadd said HRM needs better plans to meet demand for industrial land.

HRM has a strategic priority to ensure there is a sufficient supply of industrial land, but better coordination of municipal business units is required to ensure the priority is advanced.

The audit also found some improvements are needed to land and building acquisition and disposal processes, including better data management.

Management agreed to implement all seven audit recommendations.

The report is available on the auditor general's website.

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