From:	[redacted]
To:	Local Government Representation Review Secretariat
Cc:	[redacted]
Subject:	Submission to the NT Local Government Representation Review 2026
Date:	Thursday, 1 October 2026 3:48:28 PM

From: Marrakai Progress Association (MPA)
Subject: Opposition to Any Proposal to Incorporate Marrakai into a Local Government Council Area

1. Introduction

The Marrakai Progress Association (MPA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the 2026 Local Government Representation Review. The MPA is the formally constituted representative body for the Marrakai community and has been actively engaged in matters relating to local government representation since its establishment in 2017.

The MPA was originally formed **for the express purpose of opposing the incorporation of Marrakai into a Local Government Council area**, a proposal that has been raised multiple times over the past decade. Each time, the Marrakai community has strongly rejected incorporation, and our position remains unchanged.

As noted in the discussion paper, *"Local Government Council areas cover about 98% of the land mass in the NT. The other 2% is classified as unincorporated land."* Marrakai is part of that 2%, and the community wishes to remain so.

2. Community Position: Strong and Consistent Opposition to Incorporation

The Marrakai community is **firmly against becoming an incorporated land area**. This position is unanimous among residents and landholders and has been reaffirmed repeatedly since 2017.

Our reasons are clear, longstanding, and grounded in lived experience:

a. Marrakai residents do not want to pay council rates

The discussion paper states that Local Government Councils are *"primarily funded through the collection of rates, fees, and government grants."* Marrakai residents do not wish to be subject to rates for services we neither receive nor require.

b. Marrakai receives no council services — and does not seek them

The paper outlines the extensive list of services councils provide, including roads, waste, libraries, parks, drainage, animal management, and community programs. None of these services are provided in Marrakai, nor are they needed. Residents manage their own land, roads, waste, and infrastructure privately and effectively.

c. Marrakai has independently funded and built its own community infrastructure

There is **no government land** in Marrakai. The community hall land— our central meeting place — was purchased outright by the MPA using community-raised funds and volunteer labour. This demonstrates our capacity for self-management and our preference for independence.

d. Previous incorporation proposals have been rejected

The discussion paper acknowledges that *"a discussion paper proposing the inclusion of the unincorporated areas of the Cox-Daly and Marrakai-Douglas Daly... was released in March 2022,"* and that in 2023 the NT Government *"announced it would not continue with its proposal."* This decision reflected the overwhelming opposition from Marrakai residents at the time — opposition that remains unchanged.

3. Community of Interest Considerations (Section 31, Local Government Act 2019)

Under Section 31 of the Act, the Committee must consider community of interests, communication and travel, population trends, density, and physical features.

Marrakai's circumstances strongly support remaining unincorporated:

a. Community of Interests

Marrakai is a rural, self-reliant community with a shared interest in maintaining independence from council governance. Residents value autonomy and have consistently opposed external administrative control.

b. Communication and Travel

Marrakai is geographically dispersed, with long travel distances between properties. There is no central township and no natural alignment with any neighbouring council area.

c. Population Trends

Population growth in Marrakai does not create any need for council representation. Residents continue to manage their own affairs without issue.

d. Physical Features

The Marrakai-Douglas Daly region is characterised by large rural blocks, agricultural land, and remote homesteads. These features do not lend themselves to ward-based representation or council service delivery.

4. Governance, Operational and Financial Considerations

The discussion paper notes that the Committee may consider *"economic, operational, or logistical factors"* when forming recommendations.

From an operational perspective:

- Marrakai has no council-managed roads, facilities, or assets.
- Introducing council governance would impose costs on residents without providing any benefit.
- The MPA already performs the role of community representation effectively and at no cost to government.

From a financial perspective:

- Rate revenue from Marrakai would be minimal due to low population density.
- Service delivery costs would be disproportionately high.
- Incorporation would create administrative burden for both residents and government.

5. Representation Considerations

The discussion paper highlights that unincorporated areas have **no local government representation**, but also notes that incorporation decisions are made by the NT Government, not the Committee.

The Marrakai community does not seek representation through a Local Government Council. The MPA already provides a representative structure that is trusted, effective, and aligned with community values.

6. Conclusion and Request

The Marrakai Progress Association respectfully requests that:

1. Marrakai remain an unincorporated area.
2. No future proposal for incorporation be progressed without clear, demonstrated community support — which currently does not exist.
3. The Committee recognise the long-standing, consistent, and unanimous opposition of Marrakai residents to incorporation.

The Marrakai community has successfully self-managed for decades. We do not receive council services, do not require them, and do not wish to pay rates for services

we do not need. Our community identity, governance model, and way of life are best preserved by remaining unincorporated.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration and welcome any further discussion if required.

Kind Regards

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Vice president Marrakai Progress Association

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