

**Petition**

Registration No.	59
Title	Remote Shire structure
Presented on	16 February 2012
Presented by	Mr Willem Westra van Holthe
Referred to	LOCAL GOVERNMENT (M McCarthy)
Date referred	16 February 2012
Response due	19 September 2012
Response received	24 April 2012
Response presented	1 May 2012

**Petition**

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WE THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH that we urge the Northern Territory Government to put true to their word and listen to the people of the Northern Territory by dismantling the inefficient and ineffective remote shire structure and replacing it with regional councils that are developed from and through local input by local people on cultural boundaries and that are owned and managed by local people in regional areas.

Further, the areas known as Dundee Beach, Cox Peninsula and Marrakai are supported to develop their own community structure of governance relating to local Government if that is the wish of the people.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE HUMBLY PRAY that the NT Government listen to the people of the Northern Territory in particular the people who live in rural and remote areas as they too are Territorians.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, WILL EVER PRAY

## **Response**

The Northern Territory Government is committed to building on the structure of local government put in place by the reforms of 2008. Local government plays an important role as the third sphere of government and since reform a range of benefits have been seen, particularly in terms of stable administration and improved capacity for service delivery. The councils have established better internal systems of financial management, human resources and governance than the previous community government councils. This has enabled councils to access a wider range of Territory and Commonwealth funding for service delivery, especially in remote Indigenous communities.

The Northern Territory Government is also committed to improving community participation in and local ownership of local government. This includes ensuring local boards are supported to drive community-level planning and development within shire councils.

The NTG has made it clear that any boundary expansion in the Top End is to be community-driven and transparent. The NTG welcomes options for sustainable local government services in the unincorporated areas of the Northern Territory.

Residents who are interested in exploring future options for local government services in the Dundee Beach, Cox Peninsula and Marrakai areas can approach the NTG at any time to discuss a way forward, taking into account and respecting the diversity of views within the region.