



LAND UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

RISES	1a	Higher hills and ridges, moderately steep sideslopes (10-30%); relief 5 to 20 metres, 5-10% outcrop siltstone, greywacke, minor ironstone outcrop; 60-80% surface stone (gravel). Shallow lithosols (Leptic Rudosols); uniform, coarse textured; very gravelly and stony; excessively drained. Eucalyptus sp. Woodland to open woodland.
	1b	Lower, rounded hills, gentle sideslopes; gradients 2-6% relief between 5 and 20 metres; extensive surface gravels (80-100% ground cover); minor quartz and ironstone outcrop. Shallow to moderately deep lithosols (Kandosols); very gravelly throughout; minor gravelly, shallow yellow massive earths, siltosols uniform loamy sand or sandy loam; massive earths generally gradational with sandy surface over gravelly sandy clay loam. Corymbia polycarpa, Eucalyptus sp. Woodland to open woodland.
	1c	Low gravelly rises; very gentle sideslopes; gradients 0.5-1.5%; extensive ironstone gravels, minor outcrop of ironstone. Shallow, gravelly massive earths (Kandosols); gradational; loamy sand surface soil grading into light sandy clay loam; gravelly surface horizon (5-15%); very gravelly subsoil (10-30%); well drained. Eucalyptus sp. Woodland to open woodland.
	2a	More extensive areas on the gently undulating surface - restricted occurrence; less than 0.5% gradient; minor surface gravels only. Deep red massive earths (Red Kandosols); gradational; sandy loam to sandy clay loam; minor gravelly only; well drained. Eucalyptus sp. Woodland to open woodland.
	2b	Footslopes of higher hills, usually linear in extent; gently sloping gradients between 1 and 3%; extensive surface gravels, minor quartz and angular siltstone outcrop. Shallow lithosols (Leptic Rudosols); uniform loamy sand or sandy loam; very gravelly throughout; well drained. Eucalyptus sp. Woodland to open woodland.
	3a	Gravelly sideslopes; gently sloping - gradients between 1 and 3%; extensive surface gravels, minor ironstone and quartz outcrop. Shallow massive earths and minor sandy earths (Kandosols); predominantly gradational massive earths with sandy loam grading to sandy clay loam; minor uniform, loamy sand to sandy loam; minor surface soil gravels; high subsoil gravel content (20-50%); well drained. Eucalyptus sp. Woodland to open woodland.
	3b	Lower sideslopes; very gently sloping - gradients between 0.25 and 1%; surface usually sandy and/or low coherence. Apedal mottled yellow duplex soils (Hydrosols); sandy loam surface to 20-30 cm, over sandy clay loam to light clay subsoil; minor subsoil ferruginous gravels; impeded internal drainage. Lophotornis latifrons Open woodland.
	3c	Gravelly upper slope (associated with terrain of Burrells Creek formation); gentle slopes; gradients between 2 and 4%; extensive cover of fine silty ferruginous gravels. Shallow to moderately deep lithosols (Rudosols and Kandosols); uniform loamy sand to sandy loam; very gravelly, usually between 15 and 30% siltstone fragments throughout; well drained; occasionally more heavier textured subsoil (sandy clay loam). Corymbia polycarpa, Corymbia confertiflora Woodland to open woodland.
	3d	Gentle sideslopes; gradients between 0.5 and 1.5%; hardest, often crusted soil surface. Shallow yellow massive earths (Yellow Kandosols); gradational; loamy sand or sandy loam; moderately high gravel content in subsoil; moderately well drained; soil depth varies between 40 and 60 cm; covers gritty clay weathering parent material; subsoil gravels between 0 and 20%; imperfectly drained; soil depth varies considerably. Melaleuca viridiflora, Melaleuca sp. Woodland to open woodland.
	3f	Very gentle sideslopes; gradients less than 0.5%; hardest soil surface. Yellow massive earth (Kandosols); gradational; sandy loam grading to sandy clay loam at 30-40 cm; covers gritty clay weathering parent material; subsoil gravels between 0 and 20%; imperfectly drained; soil depth varies considerably. Melaleuca viridiflora, Melaleuca sp. Woodland to open woodland.
	4c	Broad floodplains, within gently undulating terrain (generally situated in north of survey area). Firm sandy surface. Apedal mottled yellow duplex soil (Hydrosols); loamy sand or sandy loam to 20-30 cm, over mottled sandy clay loam to light sandy clay; imperfectly drained. Melaleuca viridiflora and Melaleuca nervosa Low woodland or shrubland with emergent Corymbia bella trees.
	4d	Broad open floodplains (generally found in centre and south of survey area); negligible slopes; hard, buildably surface (brown dry); deep to impermeable subsoil. Themeda triandra, Eriochloa sp. Grassland.
	4g	Plains - very slight relief; negligible slopes; patches of surface ferruginous usually on slightly elevated areas. Yellow massive earths (Hydrosols); gradational - fine sandy loam grading into a sandy clay loam at 10-30 cm, then into a light clay deep subsoil at 70-100 cm; up to 15% ferruginous gravels in subsoil; imperfectly drained internally. Themeda triandra, Chrysopogon latifolius, annual Sorghum sp. Grassland.
	5c	Clay plains; cracked when dry; uneven microrelief (gullies) over a major proportion of the unit. Brown cracking clays (Vertosols); uniform medium to heavy clay; poor internal drainage. Themeda triandra, Sorghum plumosum, Paspalum sp. Mixed species Open grassland with patches of Melaleuca sp. shrubland on margins.
	5d1	Extensive clay plains; cracked when dry. Black massive cracking clays (Vertosols); strongly acid SRT - Soil reaction trend, 4. pH trend with depth down the soil profile; uniform medium to heavy clay; poor internal drainage. Cydonia sp., Echinocloa colona, Panicum sp., and Eriochloa burkittii Grassland.
	5d2	Clay plains. Black massive cracking clay (Vertosols); (strongly acid SRT); uniform medium to heavy clay; very poor internal drainage. Fimbristylis ferruginea, Eleocharis sp., Cyperus sp., Sedgeland.
	5d	Clay plains; hardest when dry, often cracked. Black massive cracking clays (Vertosols); uniform medium to heavy clay; poor internal drainage. Polypodium percarpum mixed species Woodland to open forest.

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

4b	Narrow drainage ways in gently undulating terrain (mostly in north of survey area); negligible slopes; mostly loose, sandy surface. Apedal mottled yellow duplex soil (Hydrosols); duplex, coarse sandy surface 20-35 cm, over gravelly mottled clay; 5-10% ferruginous nodules in subsoil; imperfectly drained. Melaleuca viridiflora and Melaleuca nervosa Low woodland or shrubland with emergent Corymbia bella trees.
4e	Narrow drainage ways (situated mostly in south of survey area); hard surface. Shallow to moderately deep yellow massive earths (Hydrosols); gradational - sandy loam surface grading into a sandy clay loam subsoil at 25-35 cm; siltstone gravels common in subsoil; all depths between 45 and 60 cm; moderately well drained internally. Corymbia polycarpa, Eucalyptus sp. Woodland to open woodland.
4f	Channets and banks of non-perennial streams; scalding extensive. Yellow massive earths (Hydrosols); gradational - commonly fine sandy loam grading into fine sandy clay loam with depth; minor subsoil gravels; imperfectly drained. Corymbia bella, Melaleuca sp. and Acacia auriculiformis Open woodland, woodland or open forest.
5a1	Levees and banks of lower Adelaide River and perennial tributaries; hardest, in places severely degraded gully erosion. Uniform loamy sand or yellow massive earths (Hydrosols); uniform loam or clay loam throughout; massive earths usually clay loam grading into a clay loam or light clay; between 15 and 80 cm; imperfectly drained; minor areas of uniform brown clay. Mixed species Open grassland (river levees). Melaleuca sp., Nauclea orientalis, Barbus anthracinus Open to closed forest (river banks).
5a2	Levees and banks of the upstream section of the Adelaide River; loose sandy surface. Uniform sand (Hydrosols); coarse loamy sand throughout; well drained internally. Corymbia bella, Corymbia confertiflora, Syzygium sp. Woodland to open forest (levees). Barbus anthracinus, Melaleuca sp. Closed forest (banks).
5f	Banks and lower fringed areas to major channels (levees which are slightly elevated above adjacent backpans). Brown clays and minor black massive cracking clays (Hydrosols and minor Vertosols); uniform medium to heavy clay; poor internal drainage. Closed forest to open forest.

SWAMPS

4a	Perennial billabongs and adjacent flats. Apedal mottled yellow duplex soil (Hydrosols); organic loamy surface over mottled light clay; minor ferruginous nodules in subsoil; poorly drained. Sedgeland with pockets of Melaleuca sp. shrubland on margins.
5a	Backpan swamps. Black massive cracking clays (Vertosols); uniform medium to heavy clay; poor internal drainage. Melaleuca sp., Melaleuca nervosa Woodland to open forest.

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Land resource information has been derived from aerial photograph interpretation and field data describing landform, soil and vegetation. Mapping has been collected according to the national standards and prepared at a scale of 1:100 000. Enlarging this map beyond this scale will not provide further detail.

A site inspection should always accompany mapping for specific areas.

Northern Territory Government

LAND RESOURCES OF THE MARRAKAI AREA

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