The Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment Kon Vatskalis today announced the Martin Government would review the Planning Act, in line with its election commitments.

Mr Vatskalis said outcomes and recommendations of the internal review would be made public and subject to consultation with business, planning groups, local governments and the community.

"The core issues we will be examining are: the introduction of limited third party appeal rights; a transparent role for all interested parties - particularly the minister; a commitment to consult all interested parties; timeliness and certainty in the processes; and, strong consideration of matters such as crime prevention principles when assessing the merits of development proposals," he said.

"I have advised the Local Government Association that the Territory Government will retain planning under its control.

"I believe that our size and the fact that most Territory land is not incorporated into local government means that we need to retain that control.

"We will examine the role of local government in planning and ways to enhance that role."

Mr Vatskalis said the Martin Government was currently considering the consolidated Northern Territory Planning Scheme.

"The scheme was envisaged at the time of the introduction of the NT Planning Act in 1999 and is an important mechanism in streamlining a 'Territory-wide' approach to planning," he said.

"Local distinctions will be accommodated and the proposed scheme will be subject to wide public consultation before introduction."

Mr Vatskalis said an amended Act would facilitate development and make planning processes clear, transparent and timely.

"Business people are very aware that the Martin Government is pro-development," he said.

"Our approach to planning will be proper, fair, accountable and clear.

"Businesses want clarity.

"They want to be able to build and develop within clear parameters.

"The community also wants input and local government needs to be a part of the process."

Mr Vatskalis said he had already met with planning groups, local government officials and representatives, some business groups and professional organisations.