The ability of the Alice Springs area to sustain certain types of development is detailed in a new CD-Rom launched by the Territory Government today.

Infrastructure, Planning and Environment Minister Kon Vatskalis said the aim of the CD-Rom, developed by the department, is to contribute to good planning and development solutions.

"By providing comprehensive information about the capacity of natural resources in the Alice Springs municipal area, I believe this CD-Rom will help to minimise development costs (both up-front and those related to long-term maintenance), minimise undesirable impacts like erosion on the resource and contribute to broader land-use planning," Mr Vatskalis said.

He said the CD-Rom has several target groups: "We are looking at the planners, the developers and councils as our main users," Mr Vatskalis said.

"They need accurate information on the history of the land in the area, the soil types and the optimum uses for each soil type, topography, soil depth – all these are vital pieces of information for these groups.

"And while it is of huge use to developers and governments, I am sure there will be community benefits too.

"For example, this sort of information will help to decrease total life cycle costs and increase amenity by making subdivisions less susceptible to problems like salinisation and erosion.

"I congratulate the department and all who helped develop this valuable tool."