Chief Minister Clare Martin today welcomed endorsement of Sharon Hillen as the ALP candidate for Katherine, saying she would be an outstanding representative for the community.

Ms Martin said Ms Hillen would ensure Katherine had a strong voice in Government.

"Sharon has had a more than 20 year association with the Katherine region since she worked as a trainee Parks and Wildlife Ranger at Nitmuluk in 1985, before becoming a ranger at Cutta Cutta Caves in 1987," Ms Martin said.

"She was transferred to Darwin in 1991, but returned to Katherine in 1995 as a Community Education Ranger.

"She has a great deal of experience in developing strong, productive partnerships between Government and communities through her work with Greening Australia from 1998 to 2002.

"More recently Sharon has played an important role in contributing to the development of the Katherine Regional Development Plan during her current employment as community development manager with the Katherine Town Council.

Ms Martin said Sharon would bring a fresh approach to the job of representing the people of Katherine.

"Sharon is hard working, energetic and has a wealth of experience in a wide range of areas," she said.

"She also has a good understanding of local issues and will deliver real results for Katherine residents."

Ms Martin said the CLP Opposition takes Katherine for granted and has left the community without a representative in Parliament.

"The CLP Opposition have forced this by-election because they are arrogant enough to assume that Katherine is a ‘safe’ seat," she said.

"Katherine residents now have the opportunity to vote for Sharon Hillen who will ensure they get a strong voice in Government."