

‘The Pit’ gets a clean up

Jack Crawley

More than 300,000kg of debris and rubbish has been removed from stormwater basin “The Pit” in Sydenham as the city was hit by heavy rainfall and flooding.

That’s the removal of over “4,100 wheelie bins” of silt and debris from one of Sydney’s oldest and most important water management systems.

The rubbish was removed as part of Sydney Water’s biannual cleaning operation, and their stormwater team manager Robert Allen says there was a “substantial volume of debris” given their regular cleaning time frame.

“During heavy rain events like we are currently experiencing, this proactive work at The Pit has been crucial to help protect the nearby areas and waterways from flooding due to the massive volume of water in our stormwater network,” he said.

The weeks long process to empty and clean The Pit – capable of holding 100 million litres of water – involved the use of just about every tool known to the trade, including jet-vac trucks and excavators.

“The Pit has been operational for 80 years and is like a big bathtub, holding stormwater back and keeping it in the catchment,” said Mr Allen.