



Applying the epoxy primer as part of the Interchem P treatment process. The epoxy primer ensures a strong bond between the coating and the access chamber surfaces.

Protecting your assets

The trenchless sewer rehabilitation industry is well established in Australia and has grown from its origins in pipe rehabilitation to include rehabilitation of other parts of the sewer network, including methods for spot repairs, sealing of lateral connections and renewal of house service lines.

In recent years the importance of renewing and sealing entire sewer networks to prevent leaks and infiltration has been widely recognised by many sewer asset owners. This has created the need for experienced pipeline renewal contractors to be able to provide a range of solutions for complete sewer network renewal. As a consequence, the trenchless sewer reha-

bilitation market has evolved to the stage where treatment and renewal of access chambers have become important considerations in sewer rehabilitation works.

In sewer pipe rehabilitation it is an accepted practice to rehabilitate deteriorated sewer pipes before they fail in service. This approach allows for cost-effective and non-disruptive renewal. It is beneficial to apply this same maintenance approach to all sewer structures, including access chambers.

Renewing access chambers

Many of the reasons for rehabilitating access chambers are the same as those for rehabilitating sewer pipes; namely to repair and renew the structure, protect against gas attack, stop leaks and seal against infiltration.

Access chambers represent a significant proportion of the sewer network, accounting for approximately 30 per cent of the total surface area of the sewer. Therefore, leaving the access chambers untreated

leaves a large section of the sewer network exposed to deterioration. Deterioration of access chambers caused by sewer gases is particularly common and in sewers where only the pipes have been lined, the problem is further exacerbated. This is because lining the pipes creates a gas sink in the untreated access chambers. The gases that naturally occur in the sewer can no longer affect the lined pipes and instead concentrate in the access chambers, thereby accelerating the rate of deterioration of the exposed access chamber surfaces. As such, it is important to prescribe a cost effective access chamber maintenance and renewal strategy as part of a total sewer renewal program.

As with most things that are in need of repair, an early fix to prevent further damage and thereby avoid more expensive repair costs later is important. This is also the case for access chambers because the extent and cost of repairs required will generally depend on the condition of the structure.



Deteriorated access chamber; the concrete walls are gas attacked and the step irons are corroded.

