



Controlling Critical Risks

Innovation eliminates safety hazards on site

Contractors working with the Rozelle Interchange Utilities Team recently created an innovative piece of equipment that reduces the risk of injury, saves time and money.

The Utilities team have been working on the Balmain sewer diversion, which involves the excavation of a 13m deep shaft in Rozelle's Moodie Street. This task includes a significant amount of material to be removed from the site.

When initially conducting these works, the team were undertaking a labor-intensive process of attaching and detaching a bucket to the end of an excavator arm. This required a large amount of manual handling both in the excavation shaft and above ground when removing the bucket and offloading the material into a skip bin.

Not only is this a time-consuming task, but it also poses a number of risks to the crew involved.

However contractors R.A. Smith took it upon themselves to create a safer, more efficient solution.

The contractor proposed attaching a telescopic arm to the end of the excavator. This arm can be swiveled in any direction, increasing its range of motion, reach and overall effectiveness.

David Pearsall is the safety supervisor for the Moodie Street works. He said the innovation is a safer solution and has doubled the excavation rates for the work.

"The guys don't have to climb in and out of skip bins which are slippery to adjust rigging, so it's also cut a job that had six identified hazards and now doesn't have any," he said.

"The guys like it because when the excavator is down in the shaft, nobody actually has to get involved, the excavator does it all for us. It's great to have our contractors thinking ahead and investing care and innovation in their work."

Congratulations and thank you to the R.A. Smith team for your innovation.

