Clear drains ‘helped cope with rain’

THE clearing of drains in Ludmilla has helped cope with the heavy rains in the past few days, according to Darwin Flood Mitigation Committee chairman Peter Styles.

Darwin has had more than 110mm of rain over the past three days, with Marrara topping the rainfall with 128mm. The airport received 111mm.

The Weather Bureau said yesterday rain would start to ease off. Darwin Airport reported only 2mm in the 24 hours to 9am yesterday.

Mr Styles, who is also the Business Minister, said silt and debris had been cleared from drains at a cost of $50,000.

“There has been significant work undertaken in preparation for the type of heavy rains expected during the wet season, with the clearing of the Ludmilla drains of silt and debris that had built up over many years,” he said.

The NT Government is implementing its plan to reduce flood risk in the Rapid Creek area as well as the Darwin rural area and Katherine.

It has allocated $50 million from the proceeds of the sale of TIO – $25 million for Darwin and $25 million for Katherine.

It established two committees to make recommendations on how the funding could be spent. Both flood mitigation reports are now finalised.

The Darwin report includes strategies such as increased public awareness, a mobile phone or landline early warning system and the construction of specifically located detention basins.

Other recommendations include developing a storm-water management plan for the Ludmilla Creek Catchment and implementing appropriate mitigation measures.

Mr Styles said the Government intended to bring together key stakeholders, including Darwin International Airport, to form a Rapid Creek Flood Mitigation Steering Committee in the new year.

He said regular maintenance of Rapid Creek was required to limit flow resistance and flooding.