

Racing and Quarantine Issues

- A permanent horse standstill is not good for racing





Warwick Farm Warwick Farm NSW, Australia

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Liverpool
33°54'48.14" S

150°56'26.76" E

elev - 10 m

Jan 20, 2007

Eye alt 2,60 km



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33°54'54.34" S 150°56'20.95" E

elev 8 m

Jan 20, 2007

Eye alt 566 m



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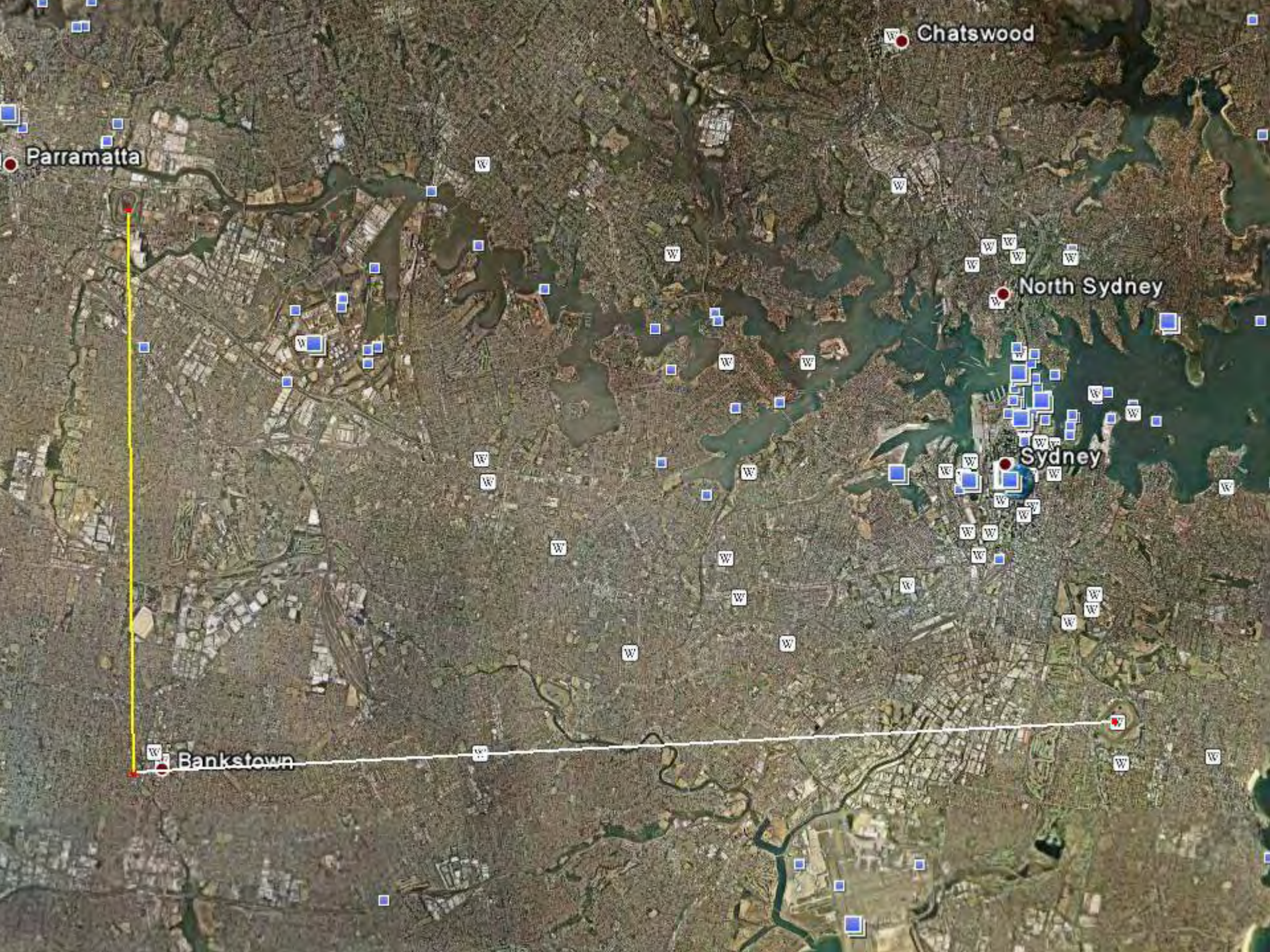
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33°54'55.19" S 150°56'16.58" E

elev 9 m

Jan 20, 2007

Eye alt 147 m



Seventeen page policy/procedure manual for racing in a few days: All “auditable”

SECTION 1: POLICY FRAMEWORK AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS MANUAL

SECTION 2: UNDERPINNING PRINCIPLES

SECTION 3 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR EI EXCLUSION ZONES

SECTION 4 GENERIC STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR INCLUSION IN RACETRACK PLANS

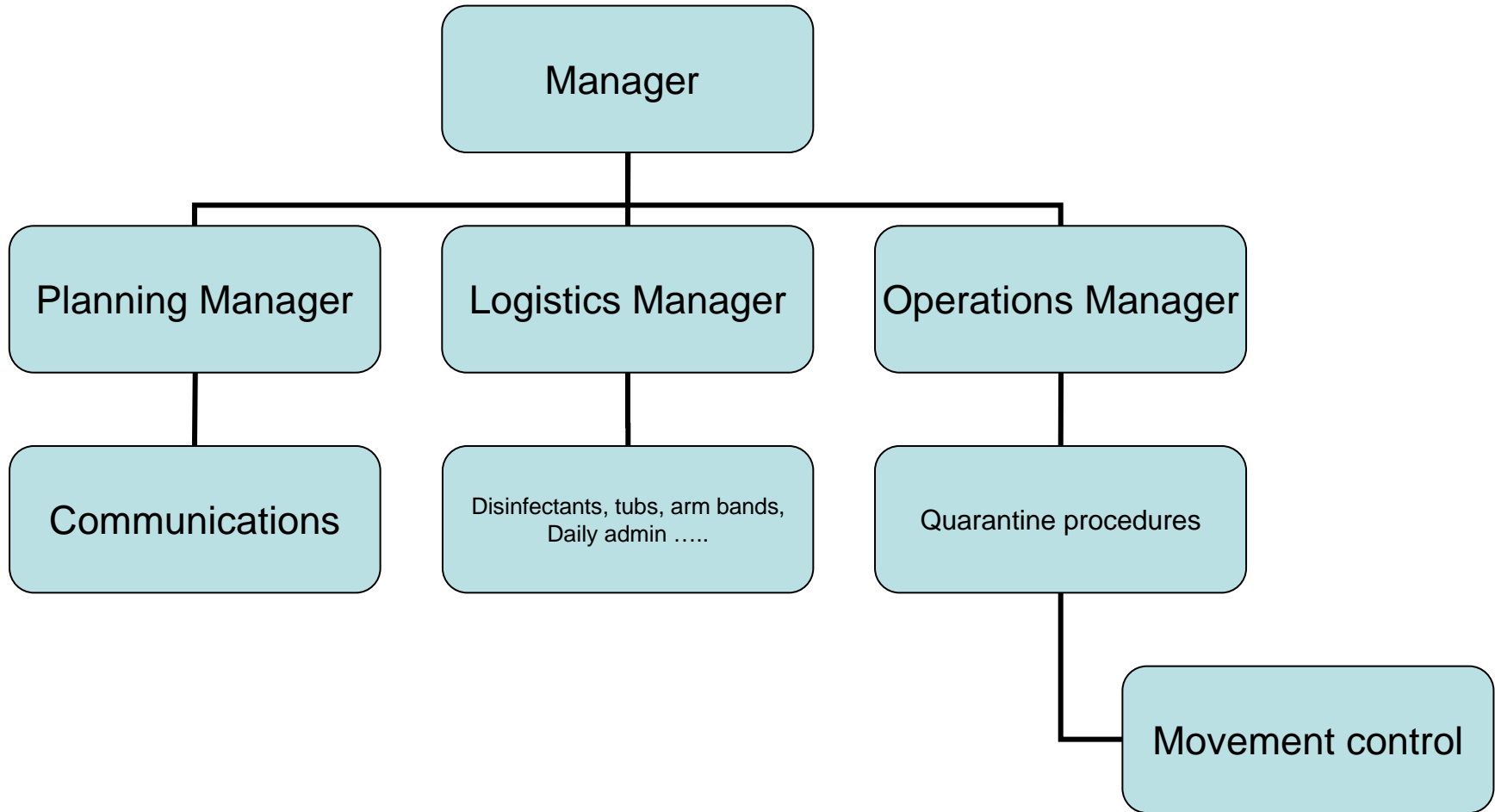
SOP Establishing an EI Prevention Control Centre on a Racetrack

SOP Procedures for horse health management, surveillance and technical advice (for the veterinary manager)

SOP Movement and security operating procedures for racetrack equine influenza control centres

SOP Managing EI Exclusion Risks from Jockeys outside the EI Free Zone on Race days

Structure of the EI Prevention Centre



How did EI get to Warwick Farm?

- Unknown
- After 3 weeks, previously hidden risks were emerging
- Hard to dismiss the role of the horse dentist – despite the strict biosecurity procedures
- Only 15 km from hot spot at Horsley Park



What happened at Bankstown

- Harness racing has more hobby trainers
- Trainer financially stressed – agrees to assist a horse transporter move a horse from Randwick
- Comes home, claims he disinfected, but spreads EI



What happened at Rosehill

- AGAINST ALL RULES a Bankstown stable hand was working at the stables of a prominent trainer at Rosehill, with the complicit support of the trainer



Would you impose EI –Prevention Centres next Time?

FOR

- Worked for 4-6 weeks
- Worked at Gosford, Wyong, Kembla Grange
- 3 race meetings held with prize money etc
- Technically achievable
- Can be resourced
- Use big stick

AGAINST

- Too many people to manage (600-1000)
- Anti-authority culture
- Extremely infectious virus
- Not a medium-term solution

QUARANTINE CENTRES



**Fenced, visitor entry, truck decontamination, showers, sleeping facilities, horse handling facilities
PLUS
MANUAL OF OPERATIONS**



Manual for Approved Quarantine Facility

- 30 pages long:

SOP 1 Procedure for checking structural compliance

SOP 2 Procedure for managing risks from surrounding horses

SOP 3 Procedure for excluding non-authorized personnel

SOP 4 Biosecurity procedures for personnel entering and leaving the facility

SOP 5 Biosecurity procedures for horses and vehicles entering and leaving the facility

SOP 6 Procedures for monitoring the health of horses in the facility

SOP 7 Contingencies if virus is detected in nasal swabs

SOP 8 Truck and vehicle washing

SOP 9 Equipment decontamination and biosecurity

SOP 10 Internal and External Audit

Should AQFs be used next time?

For

- Manual template available
- Will probably find a facility in a metro area
- Should provide high level of risk management
- Suitable for small numbers of exceptional movements
- Good risk management if only PEQ is applied

Against

- Operators don't want to accept liability
- Difficult to staff with qualified staff
- Nearly impossible to find facility in the non-metro area if using PAQ
- Does not address relative risk issues (from people movements)

Conclusion

If EI breaks out again, manuals for operations of EI-Prevention Centres and Approved Quarantine Facilities are available for immediate adoption.

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