

# How EI affected Racing NSW

Dr Craig Suann  
Senior Official Veterinarian  
Racing NSW



This is what should have happened on 25 August 2007 – Warwick Stakes, Up and Coming Stakes:



Instead:



# How EI affected Racing NSW

**Friday 24 August 2007 (approximately 3pm)**

Racing NSW first notified by the CVO's office that horses with respiratory disease at Centennial Park were suspected of being infected with equine influenza



## How EI affected Racing NSW

5pm 24 August:

Racing NSW CEO calls an emergency meeting of senior RNSW management to discuss implications of the possibility of an EI outbreak.

Contingencies set in place for overnight lockdown of Randwick if EI confirmed (due to its proximity to Centennial Park).



## How EI affected Racing NSW

Around midnight 24 August:

CVO notifies RNSW CEO that EI is confirmed at Centennial Park, and foreshadows national movement lockdown on the morning of 25 August.

Stewards lockdown Randwick racecourse.



# How EI affected Racing NSW

EI confirmed in horses trained at Randwick on 29 August 2007.



## Racing NSW perspective

EI had a devastating effect on the NSW thoroughbred racing industry due to standstill and sick horses:

- 211 scheduled race meetings cancelled
- Loss of over \$32 million in prizemoney
- Further \$4 million reduction in other returns to owners
- \$200 million loss of TAB turnover



## Racing NSW perspective

Devastating effect on the NSW thoroughbred racing industry:

- Estimated \$13.5 million lost race day revenues for race clubs around the state
- Estimated \$3.9 lost other industry revenues
- Financial and personal hardship for participants and others in related industries



## How EI affected Racing NSW

Racing NSW worked closely with the Minister, CVO and DPI officials:

- Participated on Minister's industry task force
- Issued 1,248 movement permits
- Conducted 345 stable decontamination audits
- Conducted 322 stable biosecurity audits



## How EI affected Racing NSW

Racing NSW worked closely with the Minister, CVO and DPI officials:

- To establish protocols for the running of closed meetings in green and amber zones (including pre-race nasal swabs)



# How EI affected Racing NSW

## Emergency vaccination program

With EDD approval for ProteqFlu vaccine and CVO authority:

- RNSW vaccine control centre established at the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory, Randwick





# How EI affected Racing NSW

## Emergency vaccination program:

- Vaccine first acquired from Cryosite on 28 September 2007
- Stewards worked with vets to quickly vaccinate >8,000 horses in racing stables and on spelling farms in initial phase



# How EI affected Racing NSW

## Emergency vaccination program:

- Vital element in the return to racing – demonstration of a positive immune status required to facilitate movement and therefore earlier return to business
- Contributed to the control and eradication program???



## How EI affected Racing NSW

- Continued vaccination program (under EDD). Protocols established to supply vets with vaccine.
- Permitted 1/3 of horses vaccinated in emergency phase
- Facilitated vaccination of other racehorses not vaccinated as part of the emergency program
- Included foals, yearlings, broodmares



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## Viewed Pedigree 003

**Life Number:** AUS00858345  
**Microchip Number:** 985100010779994  
 by Scenic (IRE) 1986  
 from Lovers Knot (NZ) 1990  
 bred by Mr I Johnson, NSW

**Date of Birth:** 04/10/2003  
**DNA Typed:** Y

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## Viewed (AUS) 2003

Life Number: AUS00858345      bay stallion      Date of Birth: 04/10/2003  
 Microchip Number: 985100010779994      DNA Typed: Y  
 by Scenic (IRE) 1986  
 from Lovers Knot (NZ) 1990  
 bred by Mr I Johnson, NSW



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### Australian Vaccinations

Vaccinated Against	Date	Veterinarian	Vaccine	Barcode	Exp Date	Location
Equine Influenza	01/10/2007	Racing N S W Vac 2	Merial ProteqFlu-Te [FDPC]	AH001342	03/10/2008	Think Big Stud Mccourt Rd Burradoo NSW 2576
Equine Influenza	15/10/2007	Racing N S W Vac 5	Merial ProteqFlu-Te [SDPC]	AH006010	03/10/2008	Think Big Stud Mccourt Rd Burradoo NSW 2576
Equine Influenza	21/01/2008	Dr C O'Sullivan	Merial ProteqFlu-Te [BDPC]	AH028245	23/01/2009	Randwick Racecourse High Street Randwick NSW 2031

To add vaccination details you must be logged on to the website as an ASB approved veterinarian. ASB approved veterinarians can **return to Home page** to log on.

# How EI affected Racing NSW

## Vaccination program:

- Successful OGTR audits of vaccine use and control conducted on 28 November 2007 and 19 November 2008



# How EI affected Racing NSW

## Serological testing of previously infected horses:

- RNSW facilitated the sampling of >900 previously infected horses for EI antibody ELISA
- Established a data base of horses with positive immune status
- Facilitated the return to racing – demonstration of a positive immune status required to permit travel



## Racing NSW perspective

Compensation packages for industry participants:

- RNSW instrumental in the successful negotiation with the Commonwealth government for introduction of schemes totaling \$235 million



## Racing NSW perspective

Compensation packages for industry participants:

- Commercial Horse Assistance Payment Scheme (CHAPS)
- EI Business Assistance Grants
- Equine Workers Hardship Wage Supplement



# Racing NSW perspective

Compensation packages for industry participants designed to:

- Encourage owners and trainers to keep horses in work during the lockdown
- Maintain a pool of horses in work to enable a more rapid return to racing
- Enable a proportion of the workforce to remain employed
- Ensure the industry did not lose the majority of its skills base
- Enable the retention of sufficient skilled workers for the return to racing



## Racing NSW perspective

RNSW also lobbied for NSW state government financial assistance:

- For industry participants and race clubs
- A one-off grant to help promote the industry following resumption of normal racing activities



## Racing NSW perspective

### Ongoing vaccination against EI

RNSW supports a program of ongoing vaccination of thoroughbred horses to:

- Ensure a more rapid return to business
- Reduce the financial stress to the industry and its participants

in the event of a future outbreak of EI



# Racing NSW perspective

## Acknowledgements:

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Rory Arthur

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Veterinary practitioner colleagues



