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IDN65152

Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology New South Wales

TOP PRIORITY FOR IMMEDIATE BROADCAST

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING - SYDNEY/NEWCASTLE/WOLLONGONG REGION

for LARGE HAILSTONES, FLASH FLOODING and DAMAGING WIND

For people in parts of the Sydney Metropolitan, Maitland/Cessnock, Central Coast, Greater Wollongong and Blue Mountains/Hawkesbury areas.

Issued at 4:19 pm Sunday, 13 January 2008.

The Bureau of Meteorology warns that, at 4:20 pm, severe thunderstorms were detected on weather radar near Wollongong, Colo Heights, Riverstone and Pt Kembla. These thunderstorms are moving towards the northeast to southeast. They are forecast to affect Hornsby, Glenorie, Gordon and Terrey Hills by 4:50 pm and the Yengo National Park northwest of St Albans, Brooklyn, Mona Vale and Dooralong by 5:20 pm.

Large hailstones, very heavy rainfall, flash flooding and damaging winds are likely.

Wind gusts to about 100km/hr have been recorded at Penrith.

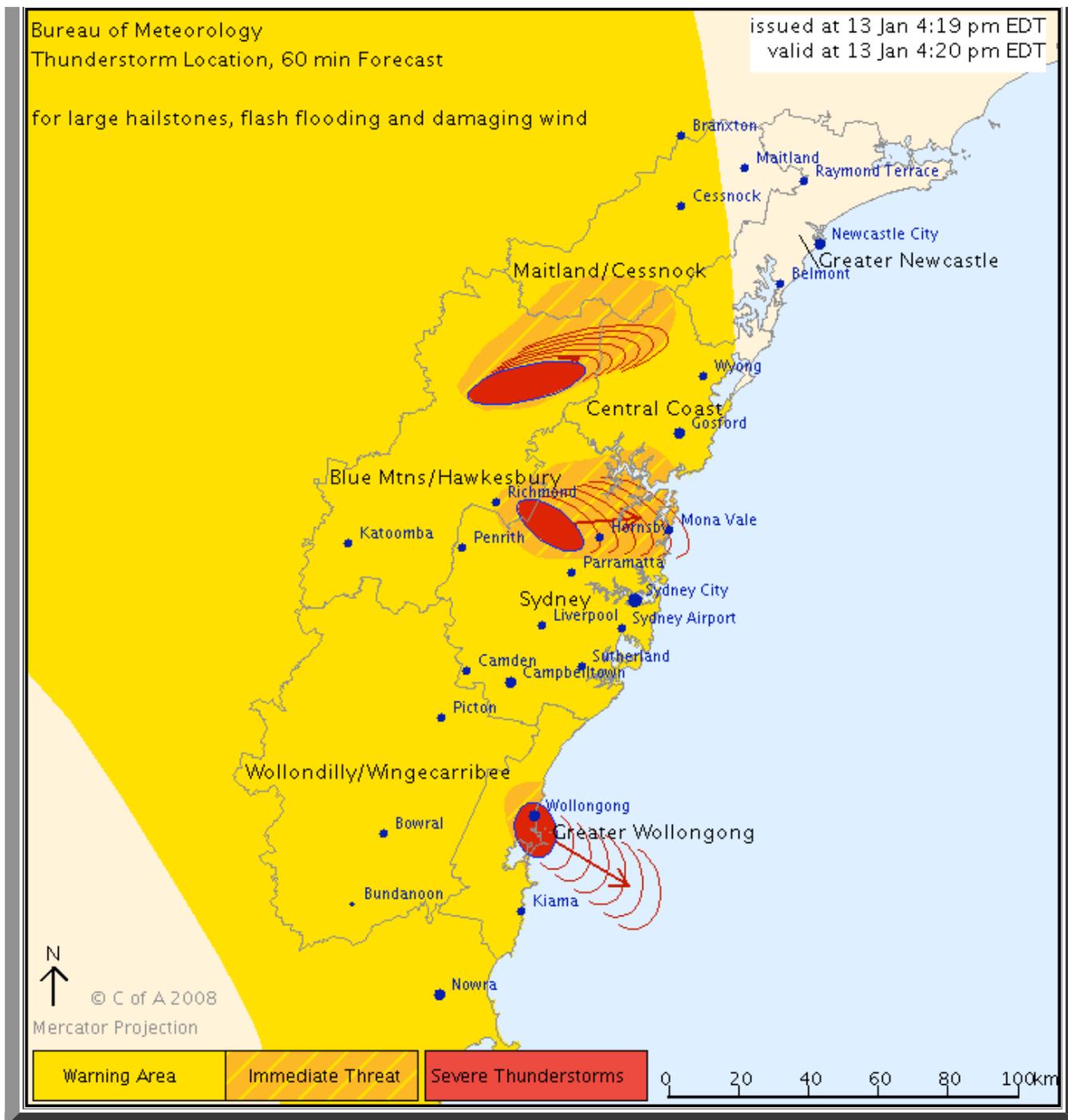
The State Emergency Service advises that people should:

- * Move your car under cover or away from trees.
- * Secure or put away loose items around your house, yard and balcony.
- * Keep clear of fallen power lines.
- * Keep clear of creeks and storm drains.
- * Don't walk, ride your bike or drive through flood water.
- * Unplug computers and appliances.
- * Avoid using the phone during the storm.
- * Stay indoors away from windows, and keep children and pets indoors as well.
- * For emergency help in floods and storms, ring the SES (NSW and ACT) on 132 500.

The next warning is due to be issued by 5:20 pm.

A more general severe thunderstorm warning is also current for the HUNTER, METROPOLITAN, ILLAWARRA, CENTRAL TABLELANDS and parts of the SOUTH COAST, SOUTHERN TABLELANDS, CENTRAL WEST SLOPES and CENTRAL WEST PLAINS districts.

Warnings are also available through TV and Radio broadcasts, the Bureau's website at www.bom.gov.au or call 1300 659 218. The Bureau and State Emergency Service would appreciate warnings being broadcast regularly.



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