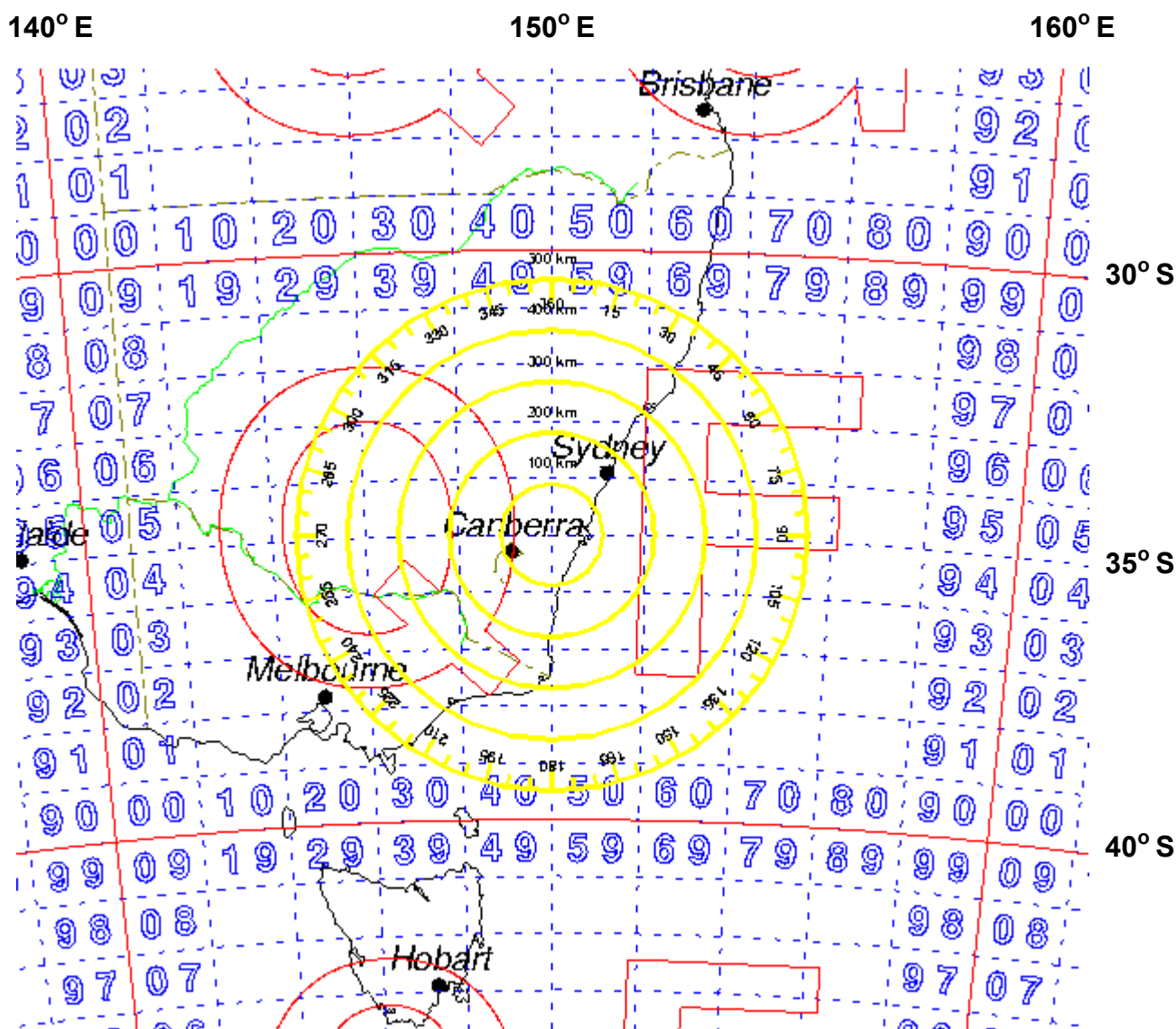


MAIDENHEAD LOCATORS

LOCATOR FIELDS: The world is divided into 18 x 18 locator fields, each covering an area 20 degrees east - west and 10 degrees north - south. The naming of these fields begins with AA at 180 degrees west and 90 degrees south, and ends with RR at 180 degrees east and 90 degrees north.

The example shown here is the field QF, which covers 140 - 160 degrees east and 30 - 40 degrees south. The centre of this field is at 150 degrees east and 35 degrees south, and the yellow circles show radial distances at 100 km intervals from this point.



LOCATOR SQUARES: Each locator field is divided into 100 squares (actually rectangles), which each cover 1 degree N - S and 2 degrees E - W. The numbering of these squares starts at the SW corner of the field. In this example, Sydney is 5 squares to the east and 6 to the north from the starting point of the QF field, so its 4 digit locator is QF56.

SIX DIGIT LOCATORS: For accuracy down to only a few km, locator squares can be further subdivided into 24 x 24 sub-squares by adding two extra digits from AA to XX. For example, the 6 digit locator for Sydney is QF56OC.