



**Around Australia Challenge Update
- DAY 10: Sat 5-Jan-2002 -**

<i>Camooweal (QLD) to Renner Springs (NT)</i>	<i>597 KM</i>
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At least no rain! The skies were still cloudy but clearer than Day 9.

Departure time from Camooweal was 9.00 AM NT time. Northern Territory time is 1.5 hours behind Australian Eastern Standard Time [AEST] The strategy was to run the solar car on less than the collected sun-power to build up some battery capacity. Speeds of 60-70 KPH were the order of the morning.

Driver Rafael Carmona, a member of the Mexican solar car team TONATIUH [name of the Aztec sun god] was imploring the heavens for more sun. By 1.00 NT time the batteries had built up to about 6 amp hours, or nearly a quarter of the total capacity. On a few occasions the telemetry recorded peaks of 1500 watts.

Speeds continued to be slow and temperatures hot but the aim to go beyond the Three Ways Roadhouse [where the Barkly Highway joins the Stuart Highway] looked achievable.

At this highway juncture the Aurora-RMIT 101 team headed north towards Katherine. The Stuart Highway is the route of the World Solar Challenge and it was only on 19 November that the Aurora solar car travelled on this road in a fast and tight competition with the world's top teams.



Day 10 Leaving Camooweal. (click for a larger image)



Day 10. 10:43 am, another flat tyre stop.(click for a larger image)



Day 10 Approaching Barkley Homestead. (click for a larger image)

On that occasion Aurora-RMIT 101 recorded an average speed of 85.2 KPH as it led the race into Tennant Creek.

The final two hours of the day were tense with little battery power left, a setting sun and the hope of making it to Renner Springs. This would be an achievement of 584 KM for the day with a prospect of getting to Broome on schedule by Day 13. The skies are clearing.