



**Around Australia Challenge Update**  
**DAY 18: Sun 13-Jan-2002**

**Geraldton (WA) to Perth (WA)**

**469 KM**



Heading back to big city civilisation the Aurora-RMIT 101 departed Geraldton at 8.30 AM heading for Perth. Dogged by a cloudy start caused by a low pressure system sagging southwards to Perth the team were grateful of a shorter distance objective of 420 KM for the day.

Before long the cloud was outrun and speeds over 80 KPH resumed.

Stops at Badgingarra and Cataby lightened up a quiet day. Back in the office there were numerous calls from media contacts awaiting the team's arrival at Parliament House in Perth.

Finally Peter Pudney provided an estimated arrival time of 3.47 PM. This level of accuracy is of course not possible in a solar car so the media were told 3.30-4.00 PM.

Outside of Perth the team was joined by Craig Richmond of the new WA solar car team SunGroper who escorted the Aurora convoy down the northern freeway and into the city.

The SunGroper team were terrifically generous to the Aurora team members in providing a BBQ dinner and in securing and paying for the team's accommodation at quarters in WA University. A big thankyou!

The Perth arrival of the world's best solar car team was greeted by 2 TV crews, Channels 7



Day 18, Stopped at Dongara (WA) to refuel the follow car and the fat trailer. (click for a larger image)



Day 18, Parliament House, Perth (WA). (click for a larger image)



Day 18, Mad Peter Pudney, Perth. (click for a larger image)

and 10 and radio interviews with ABC Perth also took place.

The majority of the Round Australia Challenge has been accomplished but its still a long long way to Melbourne and we expect a few more hardships before getting home. The Aurora Vehicle Association hold the record for the 4000 KM between Perth and Sydney which took 8 Days in 1994. Famous Australian entrepreneur Dick Smith partially sponsored that record run and himself suffered an accident whilst driving.

Tomorrow its back to Parliament House to be flagged off at 9.00 AM by the WA Deputy Premier Eric Ripper.