



**Around Australia Challenge Update**  
**DAY 19: Mon 14-Jan-2002**

<b>Perth (WA) to Yellowdine (WA)</b>	<b>402 KM</b>
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After enjoying the generous hospitality of the SunGroper solar car team members the night before the Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car crew positioned the solar car at Parliament House in Perth for a big send-off from the WA Deputy Premier The Hon Eric Ripper. This was recorded by 3 TV channels for the evening news.

This was to be a big day and the weather started well with initially clear skies. As the team headed east the cloud increased and a head-wind strengthened. This was because of a strong low pressure system drawing in cloud from a high pressure system to the south east. Still, Merredin some 260 KM along the day's route was reached at an average speed of 75 KPH.

That's where the rain stopped the team for an hour and when they started moving again on wet roads they struck further electrical problems. The sensor connector to the wheelmotor got water in it shorting the signal wires for motor temperature. In turn the motor controller read this as motor overheating and shut down. It took a while and several motor changes to analyse the problem but it was solved. By now the team had lost several running hours on Day 19 and finished the day at Yellowdine at 6.50 PM just covering 402 KM for the day. The objective was to travel through to Norseman for an achievement of 725 KM.



Day 19, Leaving Perth (WA). [\(click for a larger image\)](#)



Day 19, Tony was flagged off from Parliament House by the Acting Premier, Eric Ripper. [\(click for a larger image\)](#)

Yellowdine was a small place and essentially a truck stop but comfortable enough.

What happened as a result of this day is that the planned rest day for tomorrow and the chance to top up the batteries for an attempt at achieving 1000 KM on the day after has had to be abandoned. Instead, tomorrow is back on the road to make up for today's missing kilometers without another chance to top up batteries before reaching Adelaide at midday on Friday and Melbourne at 5.00 PM on Saturday.



Day 19, 50km out of Merredin (WA). Stopped because of rain.. (click for a larger image)

The vast Nullarbor is ahead.



Day 19, More rain. Sylvia wound down the window to check. (click for a larger image)



Day 19, Merredin (WA) 3:10pm - motor 2 is scraping badly. (click for a larger image)



Day 19, Merredin (WA) - Motor 2 shaft has bent . (click for a larger image)



Day 19, Merredin (WA) - repairs. (click for a larger image)



Day 19, Back on the (mud) road on our way to Yellowdine(WA).

(click for a larger image)