After just 5 or 6 hours of sleep on our stretchers on a campsite which sounded like a car workshop it was time to get up and prepare ourselves for a long stretch to Tennant Creek of 500km in one go. The static charging team got up an hour earlier to make sure Stella Era would get a good spot in the morning sun to soak up as much energy as possible.

At the gas station bar a long queue was forming to get a much needed coffee before setting off. As we were waiting to be allowed to leave, other teams who camped further up north started to come in with the usual chaos, running and shouting people. One driver sat in his car talking in his radio while he should have gotten out quickly to start the 30 minutes stopping time, until a team member started to shout at him to get out. Some teams first parked in the shadow and had to move their car before stopping the time. It was quite the spectacle!

Today the vastness of Australia really sunk in, hundreds of kilometers of the more or less same countryside, not many people on the road apart from all the convoys of course. This trip really tested the sturdiness of the car, as well as the power of the battery.

**Stella Era did absolutely great today, we are now the first Cruiser car and 9th of all solar cars.** Three other teams were not so lucky, their cars arrived on a trailer for various reasons we don’t know yet. Did their battery die, electrical problems or did something else break down? I guess we’ll find out later on but we can imagine they must feel quite depressed.

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Static charging before the start of the day

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Meanwhile in the camper we get explanations of electric batteries, charging times, efficiencies, updates on other teams but luckily also compliments from people who also have a radio and complement us how lovely the car looks with the Australian outback backdrop.

Well done guys!
Arriving in Tennant Creek was such a great moment as there was a big sense of relief that we made a good time. Sheltering under our tent from the scorching sun we felt we’re in a good flow and are really working well together as a team.

During the evening briefing this also became clear when five people were selected to give positive feedback. Professor Ton Backx finished with another motivational speech to give the team another boost because two hard days lie ahead with lots of kilometers to cover.

Another good thing in Tennant Creek: a pool!

But so far, so good!