

KENNARDS HIRE RALLY AUSTRALIA 2017

WRC LIVE TEXT

SUN 15:01 - UNTIL THEN Keep it wrc.com for the latest WRC news, off-season updates and terrific competition giveaways. Meanwhile WRC+ is the place to find loads of extra stuff including live stage reviews, highlights programmes and our exclusive onboard library. Bye for now!

SUN 15:00 - WE WILL RETURN In 2018 when the championship resumes on 25 January with Rallye Monte-Carlo. We hope you'll join us then.

SUN 15:00 - FINISH CONTROL Stages done, and that's where we'll leave our live text service from Kennards Hire Rally Australia and wrap up a storming 2017 WRC season.

SUN 14:42 - AUSTRALIA POWER STAGE 1: Ogier 3m32.6s (5 points) 2: Tänak +0.1s (4 points) 3: Lappi +1.7s (3 points) 4: Mikkelsen +2.1s (2 points) 5: Meeke +2.5s (1 point)

SUN 14:40 - AUSTRALIA FINAL 1. Neuville 2h35m44.8s, 2. Tänak +22.5s, 3. Paddon +59.1s, 4. Ogier +2m27.7s, 5. Evans +3m05.6. Latvala crashes in final stage - retired.

SUN 14:27 - NEUVILLE: "This win is a special one - it goes to the whole team, they have worked so hard. It wasn't always easy but we kept the motivation high. We round off the year with a win and second in the championship. Thanks to everyone in the team both here and at the factory - great job guys."

SUN 14:23 - NEUVILLE WINS He's done it! Eighth quickest on the Power Stage is enough to seal his fourth victory of season.

SUN 14:22 - SS21: NEUVILLE His door is open! It flaps open after the water-splash. It looks like Thierry has got it shut now.

SUN 14:21 - POWER STAGE POSITIONS Here are the fastest five with just Neuville to come. 1. Ogier, 2. Tanak, 3. Lappi, 4. Mikkelsen, 5. Meeke

SUN 14:19 - SS21: NEUVILLE A short delay at the line but our rally leader is now underway!

SUN 14:17 - SS21: PADDON Latvala's exit promotes Hayden to third. "We don't deserve it, we just did the job we could," he says. "Okay, it's a bittersweet feeling. Last year we lost a podium here, this time it seems to be the reverse."

SUN 14:14 - SS21: LATVALA UPDATE Heli footage appears to show the car clipping something on the inside of a long left-hand corner. The car then slews to the other side and into the trees. Stage is stopped. Neuville is held at the start line. He's on his iPhone.

SUN 14:11 - LATVALA His Toyota has left the road and hit a tree. It's going no further. Jari-Matti and co-driver Miikka are out of the car and surveying the damage. The drivers at the stage end are watching the big screens in disbelief.

SUN 14:08 - SS21: LATVALA He's gone off!

SUN 14:08 - SS21: TANAKI It's third place for Tanak, and that's his final stage in the Ford Fiesta before a switch to Toyota next year. He's second quickest so far on the Power Stage. "I've been in this family for a long, long time. I've learned a lot of hard lessons, and this year with Seb was a great experience. I'm sure I will be strong in the future so thank you Malcolm and thank you M-Sport."

SUN 14:03 - SS21: PADDON He's though and that's fourth place secured for Paddon. "A difficult year, I'm glad it's over. I think this weekend gives us some light at the end of the tunnel." And next year? "I know I won't be in Monte Carlo, so I'm looking forward to a long break at home in New Zealand."

SUN 14:00 - SS21: OGIER Seb rounds off his championship winning season with fifth place in Australia - and for now the quickest time in the Power Stage. But was this Ogier's last stage? He has promised to clear up his future plans soon. "For now I will only say this was my last stage for 2017. It was a tough weekend for sure, a few issues and the start position too, but it's been a fantastic season for us. Now we look forward to the prize giving and collecting the trophy."

SUN 13:52 - SS21: EVANS Unable to carry his Rally GB-winning pace onto Australian gravel and conditions that did not play to the strengths of his DMACK tyres. "It's been an incredible season, I've had a really good year

in terms of working with some great people. DMACK have done an incredible job, it's been interesting and I've really enjoyed it."

SUN 13:47 - SS21: LAPPIA learning rally for Esapekka who struggled with broken power steering on Friday and opened the roads on Saturday and today. He's quickest so far on the Power Stage in 3m34.3s. "I really tried to push. I'm a bit disappointed because I screwed up the water-splash, otherwise it was a good stage. The set-up was too soft but I didn't care - I just gave it a go."

SUN 13:42 - SS21: MEEKE Another driver left ruing an early error, Meeke was a podium contender until his clipped a bridge on Saturday. He brings his C3 home in eighth place. "I made one mistake in here and lost a second or so. This event sort of sums up my season. If we put in the work and do what we're talking about, we'll be alright next year."

SUN 13:37 - SS21: MIKKELSEN Quickest so far and the early leader ends in 15th place after striking a bank on Saturday. "I think we can expect good things next year. It's good to sit here and know I'm in the right car for next year. The team is great, the car is fantastic. I'm ready for 2018."

SUN 13:34 - SS21: TROPHY. SERDERIDIS Jourdan takes top honours in the WRC Trophy Category - and appears to call time on his World Rally Car appearances. "Fantastic, so nice and so happy for my co-driver Fred [who collects this year's co-drivers' trophy]. A perfect rally." And plans for next year? "No, this is it."

SUN 13:30 - SS21: QUINN The local driver secures the Australian championship title - and is so choked with emotion he can barely speak. "I've got no words at the moment. I've waited too long. Thanks to everyone, I'm so stoked."

SUN 13:27 - SS21: WRC 2 ROVANPERA The 17-year-old Finnish hotshot reaches the end and takes maximum points in WRC 2. "A really nice weekend for me, when it was dry it was really nice to drive. Today it was a bit harder but all good learning for me."

SUN 13:20 - POWER STAGE LIVE! WRC 2 driver Kalle Rovanpera is underway.

SUN 13:19 - WEATHER UPDATE It's looking much brighter at the Power Stage than earlier. The monsoon conditions have given way to sunshine and the stage is drying quickly.

SUN 13:06 - TYRE CHOICES Confirmation from Michelin that all its drivers have taken five soft-compound tyres to the Power Stage except Lappi who has four softs and one hard.

SUN 13:02 - SS21: RUNNING ORDER A few tweaks to suit the live TV schedule. Here's the order in which drivers will tackle the Power Stage: 1.Rovanperä, 2.Quinn, 3.Serderidis, 4.Mikkelsen, 5.Meeke, 6.Lappi, 7.Evans, 8.Ogier, 9.Paddon, 10.Tänak, 11.Latvala, 12.Neuville

SUN 11:03 - NEXT STAGE: 1318HRS The rally closing Power Stage [SS21] is due to run on schedule. Don't forget, WRC+ users can watch this one live - the streaming broadcast starts at 1300hrs. We'll resume our live text then.

SUN 11:01 - SS20 UPDATE The rain has made many of the stage access roads too muddy to pass.

SUN 10:59 - SS20: CANCELLED This morning's torrential rain has led to the cancellation of the next stage - the repeat of Pilbara Reverse.

SUN 10:20 - UP NEXT: SERVICE Crews are returning to Coffs Harbour for a 30-minute service before the final loop. The next stage, the repeat of Pilbara Reverse [SS20], starts at 1146hrs. We'll take a text break until then.

SUN 10:17 - SS19: QUINN Coffs Harbour resident Nathan Quinn gets his Mitsubishi cleanly through and remains on course to seal the Australian Rally Championship title this afternoon. "Only two stages to go but it's more tricky than picking up a bar of soap in the shower," he says. "It's out of control. I'm going to keep my head down and hopefully get through."

SUN 10:09 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS19 1.Neuville 2h32m08.s, 2.Latvala +14.7s, 3.Tänak +26.0s, 4.Paddon +59.5s, 5.Ogier +2m31.3.

SUN 09:58 - SS19: WRC 2 ROVANPERA "I was thinking Wales was slippery, but this is something else. We went off and into some trees, but I think we got away with it." His car looks okay.

SUN 09:56 - SS19: MIKKELSEN Second quickest. "I'm not really fighting for much today, and when it's like that you drive accordingly. I think we've been very unlucky with the weather - it's like a cloud has been following us all day. Hopefully later we can have some good fun on the Power Stage."

SUN 09:50 - SS19: MEEKE Sixth fastest. "Tricky. Just treating it like a high-speed recce for experience because we're not in the overall mix."

SUN 09:47 - SS19: NEUVILLEA terrific drive from rally leader Neuville, who goes fastest by 4.7sec to extend his advantage over Latvala to 14.7sec. "That was a hell of a ride. Really, really tricky conditions but I kept it on the road. It was close sometimes and I had to be clever." How confident are you of winning? "The gap now is about one second per kilometre for the two stages to come, so it should be alright."

SUN 09:41 - SS19: LATVALAIt's tight! Jari-Matti completes one-tenth slower than Tanak. "I think we had a good stage in very tricky conditions. I'm happy with the time compared to Ott, now it will be interesting to see Thierry's. I think it's drying out a bit, but not enough to make a difference between us."

SUN 09:35 - SS19: TANAKQuickest so far. "It was slippery like hell. So, so tricky. Can I catch Latvala? In conditions like this I can't plan anything."

SUN 09:32 - SS19: PADDONOn course for fourth place after Breen's retirement. "We took it safely. Now we have a big gap ahead and when conditions are like this I'm not prepared to take risks. It reminds me of Portugal 2012 - tricky conditions and grip that is very tricky to read. This hasn't been the best weekend but fourth place would be a good way to round off the year."

SUN 09:27 - SS19: OGIER1.6sec slower than Lappi here, but more seriously Ogier has collected a 1min penalty for an early check-in to SS18. "Changing conditions and still a lot of trouble for us in the car with the gear shift. I'm looking forward to the end of the season now." And the early check-in? "We had this [gearbox] problem which disturbed us a little and in a panic we had an early check in."

SUN 09:22 - SS19: EVANS7.8sec slower than Lappi and Elfyn is lucky to escape a very wide moment on a left-hander near the end that leaves him laughing. "I think it was more shock than laughter," he explains. "I was being careful because the car was aquaplaning a lot and we had very worn front tyres."

SUN 09:16 - WEATHER UPDATEThe heavy rain on SS19 has stopped for now. Road conditions remain treacherous.

SUN 09:15 - SS19: LAPPIHe's though in 4m01.4s. "It's crazy. So much standing water. The car is like a boat, you can't control it - it just goes where it wants. I managed to go off once only - a big impact to the right-rear. I've never seen conditions like this."

SUN 09:09 - WEATHER UPDATEHeavy rain falling. Puddles and running water on Wedding Bells.

SUN 08:54 - STAGE INFO: SS19Wedding Bells 16 1, 6.44km. Wedding Bells is so named because a gold miner took his new bride there for their honeymoon. It is fast but narrow in places and the surface is clay, with little loose gravel for the early starters to worry about. It is best known for a popular spectator area which features a water splash and right bend, followed by a jump on a second visit to the same zone.

SUN 08:54 - LIVE STAGE ALERTWRC+ users can watch SS19 live via our streaming service. The coverage starts at 0900hrs. Head to plus.wrc.com to find out more.

SUN 08:52 - NEXT STAGE: 0908HRSThat's Lappi's start time for Wedding Bells [SS19], which is repeated later as the Power Stage. Stage notes coming up

SUN 08:51 - SS18: WRC 2 ROVANPERABack today after his puncture-related retirement. "It was going rally well before the punctures but nothing we can do about it. Today is going to be a learning day for me."

SUN 08:49 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS181.Neuville 2h28m13.1s, 2.Latvala 9.9s, 3.Tänak 21.3s, 4.Paddon 47.5s, 5.Ogier 2m23.8. Heavy localised rain. Breen rolls - retired - Ogier time penalty.

SUN 08:48 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS171.Neuville 2h10m39.8s, 2.Latvala +19.0s, 3.Tänak +42.7s, 4.Breen +1m12.2s, 5.Paddon +1m23.4. Lefebvre hits a tree - retired.

SUN 08:46 - SS18: MIKKELSEN"Very, very changeable conditions. Very up and down with the rain. Just playing it safe and saving some tyres for later. Very easy to make a mistake in there."

SUN 08:43 - SS18: MEEKE"Horrendous. Absolutely horrendous. It's hellish in there. Like being on ice, so close to the trees."

SUN 08:40 - SS18: NEUVILLE9.1sec slower than Latvala and his lead is down to 9.9sec. "It's still okay," he says. "I couldn't do more in the rain. I tried to do my best. I will manage."

SUN 08:38 - SS18: LATVALA26.8sec slower than Paddon and Jari-Matti's advantage over Tanak behind is trimmed to 11.4sec. There is some damage to front left wheel arch but the biggest issue was getting caught in a torrential downpour. "The rain came and it was very, very slippery at the start. I didn't want to take any big risks. That is just the way it is. Also we are a little down on engine power. We need to go and have a look."

SUN 08:33 - SS18: TANAKHe completes 14.5sec slower than Paddon. "For sure its very tricky with the rain. The last part was all dry. It's not too extreme at the moment."

SUN 08:29 - SS18: SPLITSLatvala and Neuville showing some very slow early splits. Compared to stage leader Paddon, at 18.2km, Latvala is 18.1s, Neuville is 25.3s

SUN 08:27 - SS18: PADDON"In the middle there was quite a bit of rain, it's coming and going. This weekend we've found some things that have affected my confidence all year. All a bit late, unfortunately."

SUN 08:24 - SS18: OGIERAnother car and more problems to report: "A lot of issues for us. The gear shifting again. The same problem all weekend for us." And the weather? "Mainly dry for us."

SUN 08:19 - SS18: EVANSFastest on the previous stage but he's agitated here. What's up? "Gear selection problem." he sets off to investigate.

SUN 08:17 - SS18: BREENWRC TV crew reports a stop for Breen in the early section. He has rolled.

SUN 08:16 - STAGE INFO: SS18Bucca 16, 31.90km. Bucca means long and winding in the indigenous language and that sums up this stage. Disused tracks have been opened up and it features a chicane ahead of a tight right bend following a flat-out straight. The surface is good and fast throughout and this one of the few stages used in the same format as 2016.

SUN 08:15 - SS18: LIVEWe head straight over to the next stage. Lappi has just completed in 17m01.1s

SUN 08:13 - SS17: MEEKENNinth fastest. "Massive rain in the middle of the stage. I couldn't even see the road though the wipers. For us it was a monsoon."

SUN 08:11 - LEFEBVRE UPDATEConfirmation from Citroen that Stephane has retired as a result of the crash damage on SS17.

SUN 08:10 - SS17: NEUVILLEThe rally leader slots fifth fastest. His advantage over Latvala is trimmed slightly to 19sec. "We have a comfortable gap so we need to be clever and manage it well. Maybe we were too careful here but in the end we only lose one second."

SUN 08:07 - SS17: LATVALAFourth quickest. "The first part was okay but towards the end it was slippery and not easy to drive. I took it steady there because I wanted a clean run."

SUN 08:04 - SS17: TANAKFourth quickest and sounding rather subdued. "It's getting slippery for sure. This stage didn't feel so good. Let's see what the next one is like."

SUN 08:00 - SS17: BREENFifth fastest. Slower than we expected? "The rain is starting to come down really heavily in the stage now. The next stage should be a bit more consistent for everybody."

SUN 07:59 - WEATHER UPDATERain falling in Coffs Harbour

SUN 07:58 - SS17: PADDON"I'm trying some new things today, and getting used to the car now it feels a bit different." What have you changed? "Just some things."

SUN 07:55 - SS17: OGIERCleanly though for Seb who confirms he wasn't affected by dust from Lefebvre's stricken car.

SUN 07:53 - SS17: LEFEBVREHe's though with the loss of more than 2min and clearly it's more than a small off. His Citroen C3 is sporting heavy damage to the rear left suspension and wheel. Stephane is straight out to have a look - and punches the car in frustration "I touched one tree," he explains before trying to drive off. That looks like game over.

SUN 07:49 - SS17: LEFEBVREWRC TV crew reports a small off for the Frenchman. We'll find out shortly.

SUN 07:48 - SS17: EVANS2.5sec quicker than Lappi. "All okay, no problems. The water-splash was particularly deep, the visibility goes pretty quickly, but no drama."

SUN 07:47 - SS17: LAPPI"Conditions are not so bad. The grip is good apart from the last 2 or 3km where it is very slippery. The water-splashes are really deep - the car almost stopped when we hit them."

SUN 07:40 - SS17: LIVELappi is underway!

SUN 07:35 - STAGE INFO: SS17Pilbara Reverse 1, 9.93km. As the name suggests this is Friday's Pilbara stage but driven in the opposite direction. It is extremely fast with long straights and corners and hardly a junction to mention. The surface is smooth clay and there are three watersplashes in the final section.

SUN 07:34 - TYRE CHOICESConfirmation from Michelin on tyre numbers and compounds (hard / soft) for the morning loop. All have 5S except Lappi who has 4S&1H

SUN 07:32 - WRC LIVEOur radio service is LIVE with Becs Williams in the studio and Emyr Penlan and Colin Clark reporting from the stage ends. You'll find a link the LIVE CENTRE on the homepage.

SUN 07:31 - START INTERVALSThree-minute intervals.

SUN 07:31 - RUNNING ORDER Drivers will start in reverse rally classification order today. Here's how they line up: 1. Lappi, 2. Evans, 3. Lefebvre, 4. Ogier, 5. Paddon, 6. Breen, 7. Tänak, 8. Latvala, 9. Neuville, 10. Meeke, 11. Mikkelsen

SUN 07:29 - WEATHER Another grey and cloudy start in Coffs Harbour. The current temperature of 17°C should hit 23°C this afternoon. There was a lot of rain overnight last night and a threat of more showers today.

SUN 07:28 - SUNDAY'S ITINERARY 2/2 After a 30-minute service back in Coffs, crews tackle a short final loop of two stages that concludes with the 6.44km Wedding Bells Live TV Power Stage at 1318hrs.

SUN 07:28 - SUNDAY'S ITINERARY 1/2 The final day takes in five stages north of Coffs Harbour that total 64.64 kilometres. Crews left service from 0640hrs for a loop of three stages including the 31.90km Bucca.

SUN 07:27 - COMING UP TODAY The big finish. The grand finale to Australia's WRC counter and the last day of WRC competition this year.

SUN 07:27 - WE'RE LIVE With a stream of text updates from Rally HQ in Coffs Harbour on wrc.com and the WRC App

SUN 07:27 - GOOD MORNING WORLD And welcome back one last time to our text coverage of Kennards Hire Rally Australia

SAT 19:09 - UNTIL THEN Keep an eye on wrc.com for the latest news from Coffs Harbour and don't forget WRC+ where you will find extra content like live stage reviews, highlights programmes and our exclusive onboard comparison system. Bye for now.

SAT 19:08 - JOIN US ON SUNDAY For the third and final leg, the last dose of top-level rallying this year and the grand finale live TV Power Stage. We'll be here from 0738hrs, when the action kicks off with Pilbara Reverse.

SAT 19:05 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS16 1.Neuville 2h05m11.6s, 2.Latvala +20.1s, 3.Tänak +40.6s, 4.Breen +1m05.2s, 5.Paddon +1m21.1

SAT 19:04 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS15 1.Neuville 2h04m09.7s, 2.Latvala +19.6s, 3.Tänak +40.7s, 4.Breen +1m05.2s, 5.Paddon +1m20.9

SAT 18:59 - ROVANPERA? He didn't start the stage due to his punctured tyres. Retired at the prep-stage regroup.

SAT 18:56 - SS16: NEUVILLE He rounds off the leg with a rally lead of 20.1sec. "I'm pleased with how it's worked, really happy with the performance of the car. I just did my job." And tomorrow? "It will be funny."

SAT 18:54 - SS16: LATVALA Fifth quickest on the stage so far. "I hear rain is coming so tomorrow will be difficult and we must stay focused. Everything is open."

SAT 18:51 - SS16: BREEN "We struggled a bit on Nambucca today, the first one was hard but the second was better. To be fourth place now, we can be happy with that."

SAT 18:50 - SS16: TANAK "I think it's obvious that tomorrow will be open. Only Jari-Matti and Sebastien know this rally in the wet. We've seen on the TV that this one is tricky when it rains."

SAT 18:47 - SS15 TIMES: Top five: Breen and Neuville tie fastest. Ogier+0.4s, Tanak+0.5s, Latvala+0.6s, Paddon+0.8s

SAT 18:37 - BATCH TWO UNDERWAY We'll bring you the quotes shortly

SAT 18:37 - SS16: PADDON "Things aren't good enough to worry about fighting guys ahead, I just have to focus on my driving and my car. I feel like we found something positive this afternoon. I hope to build on that tomorrow when I think the weather will be key."

SAT 18:35 - SS16: OGIER "It's hard to find any positives today, but we are here and it's part of life. Not a big drama. We try to do better tomorrow. There is no hope in the classification but let's see - the weather conditions look tricky."

SAT 18:33 - SS16: LEFEBVRE "A frustrating day. I did some mistakes, it's been difficult from third on the road. The conditions with the rain were very difficult. I don't have much experience of this car when it is like this. I hope for better tomorrow."

SAT 18:31 - SS16: EVANS "It was important to get as much mileage as possible. After missing this one last year my objective was to get the pace notes right. A long and frustrating weekend, we knew it would be. Nothing more or less than we expected."

SAT 18:28 - SS16: LAPPI"It was my first time to open the roads here and it was actually quite fun. Okay, I would have preferred to do better times but I don't think mine were too bad for a first time. It was good learning."

SAT 18:12 - SS15 / SS16 BATCHESDrivers will tackle the stages consecutively in two batches. Lappi, Evans, Lefebvre, Ogier and Paddon will make both passes as batch one. We'll hear their end of day comments before the second batch of the remaining drivers get underway.

SAT 17:59 - WELCOME BACKWe return to the Destination NSW SSS where the top ten drivers are making their final preparations

SAT 14:23 - SS15 / SS16 RUNNING ORDERReversed, like yesterday. World Rally Cars will be on stage from 1814hrs. We will take a live text break until then.

SAT 14:19 - NEXT STAGE: 1654HRSThat's when the Destination NSW Super Special [SS15 / SS16] gets underway.

SAT 14:13 - SS14 UPDATEStage cancelled because a damaged bridge made it unsafe.

SAT 14:12 - SS14: CANCELLEDRally organisers have cancelled the second pass of Newry [SS14]. Crews will make their way back to the Coffs Harbour regroup before this evening's Super Specials.

SAT 14:06 - SS13: WRC 2 ROVANPERAIt's a cautious run on a punctured tyre but the youngster completes the stage.

SAT 13:58 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS131.Neuville 2h03m07.4s, 2.Latvala +19.0s, 3.Tänak +40.2s, 4.Breen +1m05.2s, 5.Paddon +1m20.1. Meeke retires with broken suspension

SAT 13:52 - MEEKE OUTUnable to stabilise his broken suspension, Meeke has retired before the start of Stage 13.

SAT 13:50 - SS13: NEUVILLESure enough, Neuville finds something extra here to beat Latvala's time by 2.8sec. His rally lead is up to 19sec. "I try. This was a bit more slippery and I struggled a bit with oversteer. Not so much fun, but the time is good. We must carry on like this."

SAT 13:47 - SS13: LATVALAHe completes in a new fastest time. "It's a tough fight with Thierry. He is very strong. I'm trying but somehow he seeks to find something extra. Can I win? There are many stages to go and you never give up until the final metre of the final stage."

SAT 13:41 - SS13: BREEN"I wasn't as committed in that one, not such a great rhythm. Also I had a butterfly in front of me for much of the stage - all part of the jungle experience."

SAT 13:37 - SS13: TANAKNow Tanak is quickest. "Unfortunately we had a puncture in the previous one so we had to use a very worn soft tyre here that I was keeping for the Super Special. It was difficult, not so good."

SAT 13:35 - SS13: PADDONQuickest so far. What is the best tyre choice for these conditions? "Hard to say. Sometimes hard, sometimes soft. The Australian weather has thrown us a curve ball this year."

SAT 13:29 - SS13: OGIERHis Fiesta looking rather blunt without a front bumper. How does it drive? "It is under-steering more. Now it's just about driving through and trying to finish this day."

SAT 13:28 - SS12: ROVANPERAThe WRC 2 driver picked up two punctures in stage and has just one spare. He is continuing.

SAT 13:27 - MEEKE UPDATEHe broken a right-rear suspension arm on SS12 and doesn't have a spare on board. He will try to nurse his car through the next two stages.

SAT 13:25 - SS13: LEFEBVREQuickest so far. "We destroyed our tyres a bit in the first one and I have a lot of understeer here. For the moment not so bad."

SAT 13:24 - SS13: EVANSOne-tenth quicker than Lappi. "Tricky. If I didn't have understeer I had oversteer. Difficult mixed conditions. More loose than I expected."

SAT 13:19 - SS13: LAPPIFirst to complete in 6m57.2s. How was that? "Horrible. Not cleaning at all. I couldn't find any grip."

SAT 13:16 - STAGE INFO: SS13Argents Hill, 12.24km. This live TV stage comprises the final part of Nambucca. It is fast and flowing all the way, ending with a 2.25km segment, which mixes a short technical section with fast flowing corners to the stop line.

SAT 13:15 - SS13: LIVE STAGE ALERTWRC+ users can watch the Argents Hill stage live via our streaming service. Head to plus.wrc.com to find out more.

SAT 13:14 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS121.Neuville 1h56m25.0s, 2.Latvala +16.2s, 3.Tänak +36.6s, 4.Meeke +41.3s, 5.Breen +59.5

SAT 13:11 - SS12: MEEKEProblems for Kris. He is fifth quickest through the stage but his car isn't running straight. "Near the start we went over a narrow bridge and I just touched the rear - something is broken." He slips behind Tanak to fourth place.

SAT 13:08 - SS12: NEUVILLEA massive stage time from Thierry, quickest by 9.8sec, and his rally lead is now 16.2sec from Latvala. "I got into the stage, the tyres felt good so I decided to give it a go. I kept going and when it started to get dry I really pushed hard."

SAT 13:03 - SS12: LATVALASecond quickest. "I tried what I could and towards the end it was very slippery. I took it a bit careful there but overall a good stage. The next two stages will be very important [in the battle with Neuville].

SAT 12:59 - SS12: BREEN"Not so bad. The end of the stage - the last 2km - was a little messy but overall not so bad."

SAT 12:56 - SS12: TANAKQuickest so far by 10.6sec. "All okay."

SAT 12:54 - SS12: PADDONQuickest so far. "The weather is playing a big part here. The final downhill section that was 100 per cent dry is now very muddy - it's getting worse."

SAT 12:53 - SS12: OGIERHis car is missing its front bumper and splitter. He jumps out to take a look. "That will make it tricky," he acknowledges. "It happened less than 1km before the finish. It was very slippery, I went wide, spun into a bank and lost the bumper." 10sec quicker than Lappi on the splits, he completes 2.3sec slower.

SAT 12:48 - SS12: LEFEBVRE"A bit better than earlier but I spun one more time and I think I lost 15 seconds. I braked too late, spun and stalled the engine." His car escapes serious damage.

SAT 12:46 - SS12: EVANS15sec slower than Lappi, Evans gives his verdict on the challenge. "Damp at the start with okay grip for about the first 7km. Then it's full dry and then the last 3km was pretty difficult."

SAT 12:43 - SS12: LAPPIFirst to complete, and very animated about the super slippery final section. "The last part - the last 3.5km - oh my God! It was so slippery and it changed so quickly. I had some margin but if you come too fast you have no chance!"

SAT 12:28 - TYRE CHOICESHere are the all important numbers and compounds (hard / soft) for the afternoon loop. Meeke, Breen, Latvala, Ogier: 3H&2S. Lefebvre: 5S. Lappi, Paddon: 4H2S. Neuville, Tanak: 4H1S

SAT 12:23 - SS12: UNDERWAYLappi is in stage

SAT 10:44 - NEXT STAGE: 1222HRSThat's Lappi's start time for Welshs Creek. We'll take a live text break until then.

SAT 10:40 - SERVICE: MEEKE"I suspected yesterday that Nambucca could be a struggle for us. When it gets smooth and wide we struggle - we saw that before in Finland and Portugal. I still enjoyed it but I just couldn't commit. That's something we need to work on next year."

SAT 10:37 - SERVICE: NEUVILLE"I'm feeling good. The pace is good, we are going really quick but I'm disappointed the fight with Andreas is over. We put the pressure on and he made a small mistake like many of it did at that place in Newry. We need a gearbox change now - I broke something when I turned around but it will be okay."

SAT 10:28 - SERVICE: TANAK"Far from good form today. We lost 20 seconds on the first stage, the second was maybe a bit better, and overall we are not so far off, but if we want to be closer to the guys ahead we need to figure out how to improve our pace."

SAT 10:24 - SERVICE: PADDON"It was like two rallies in one on Nambucca today, wet and muddy for the first 10km and completely dry from 15km. I couldn't drive it like I have in the past and I don't know why. We're not where we want to be but we're not giving up."

SAT 10:21 - SERVICE: OGIER"I'm going to try to do some better times this afternoon - my road position should not be such a disadvantage. When you are in P8 or P7 for sure it's not the same motivation but I'll try to do my best."

SAT 10:18 - UP NEXT: SERVICECrews are heading back to Coffs Harbour for a regroup and the 30 min midpoint service. First car into service at 1049hrs.

SAT 10:18 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS1111.Neuville 1h38m40.2s, 2.Latvala +6.3s, 3.Meeke +22.0s, 4.Tanak +26.8s, 5.Breen +45.8

SAT 10:15 - SS11: MEEKE"In the right conditions we have the speed but I don't think we have the pace to win the rally outright. But as we saw in the last stage anything can happen."

SAT 10:13 - SS11: NEUVILLEThird fastest and Thierry's rally lead is 6.3sec from Latvala. "I'm really disappointed for Andreas, it was nice fight but it looks like he punctured at the same tricky place where we went off. We are a bit in trouble ourselves, with no first gear any more. I have to be careful in the hairpins here, but I was able to manage. We'll get a new gearbox in service."

SAT 10:10 - SS11: LATVALAFourth quickest so far. "My tyres are quite worn and maybe I was too aggressive here. It been a good morning I must say and now a surprising situation. Now its a tough fight and Thierry is fighting really, really hard."

SAT 10:05 - SS11: BREEN"It's been an okay morning, but you can't beat experience here."

SAT 10:03 - SS11: TANAKQuickest so far and lying fourth at Saturday's midpoint. "We are still a bit far from the top. Definitely we need some more performance to fight for the podium."

SAT 10:00 - SS11: PADDON"I think it's time to forget about the result and the stage times here and try and get a good feeling for the car. If I look at the timing board I get disappointed. I've got to just try and enjoy it."

SAT 09:57 - SS11: OGIERQuickest so far but playing down the significance of Mikkelsen's exit. "I'm not really part of any fight this weekend so what happens at the front doesn't really concern me. I'll just try and make some good times in the second loop."

SAT 09:53 - SS11: LEFEBVRE"This stage was okay but I hope to find more confidence in the afternoon."

SAT 09:52 - STAGE INFO: SS11Raceway SSS, 1.37km. First driven 12 months ago, Raceway SSS is on a purpose-built track used for karting, drifting and rallycross. Two small sections of gravel break up the asphalt. It's a great venue for fans, with grass banks rising above the track providing great viewing.

SAT 09:52 - SS11: LIVEWe cross straight to the Raceway SSS which started at 0944hrs.

SAT 09:51 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS101.Neuville 1h37m24.3s, 2.Latvala +5.7s, 3.Meeke +21.1s, 4.Tänak +27.4s, 5.Breen +45.6 Two punctures cost Mikkelsen the lead

SAT 09:48 - SS10: NEUVILLE LEADSMikkelsen's exit promotes Neuville into the lead. Latvala is second, 5.7sec behind, with Meeke another 15.4sec back in third.

SAT 09:47 - SS10: MIKKELSEN"It's devastating, but what can you do? We are trying to push as hard as we can, sometimes you get away with it, but not today. With our tyre choice we didn't consider two spares. We were saving our tyres for later."

SAT 09:44 - SS10: MIKKELSENDisaster. He's lost 1m40s with a front and rear left puncture. Worse still, he has just one spare. "It happened 2km after the start on a right-hander over a crest. In third or fourth gear I went wide and touched the bank quite hard. I thought I had just a rear puncture but soon after I felt the front too. I have one spare so it doesn't look like we'll be going any further."

SAT 09:39 - SS10: MIKKELSENBig time loss showing on the splits for the rally leader. He's 39.7sec slower than Latvala at the 14km point. WRC TV crews reports his car looks okay.

SAT 09:37 - SS10: MEEKEFifth quickest, 11.5sec slower than Latvala. Sounds like the same problem that caught out Ogier and Neuville. "I missed a junction - really deceptive in the trees. I lost 10 or 15 seconds."

SAT 09:36 - SS10: NEUVILLEHe completes with the front-right tyre off the rim. He's lost 8sec to Latvala. "I went straight on at a junction. I was following lines in the road, I braked too late and had to reverse. I have broken something on the gearbox too. We have to check but it will be okay."

SAT 09:33 - SS10: LATVALA"We have always lost time on this one, but this time it was good. The secret is not to be afraid of the trees - you have to use all the road you have."

SAT 09:29 - SS10: NEUVILLEA worrying opening split - 10.0sec slower than Latvala

SAT 09:28 - SS10: BREEN"I really enjoyed it. The last 10km were familiar, a much better flow than Nambucca and fully dry."

SAT 09:26 - SS10: TANAKQuickest of the six cars through so far. "Compared to the previous stage, the surface is a bit more slippery because it's dry, but it was more consistent and the the car worked well."

SAT 09:23 - SS10: PADDONSecond quickest and there is a huge branch sticking from the front of his Hyundai. "It's like a jungle in here, you have to take a few cuts here and there. Not one of my favourite stages, but I enjoyed it more than I have in the past. My tyre strategy is not the best so we're making the best of what we have."

SAT 09:20 - SS10: OGIER15.6sec slower than stage leader Lappi. "We missed a junction," he explains. "Maybe I missed a bit of concentration. There's no chance to get a good result this weekend - there's not much we can do."

SAT 09:18 - SS10: LEFEBVRE"Drier and easier for us than the first one but I was too sideways, I need to be cleaner on the repeat pass."

SAT 09:13 - SS10: EVANS21.5sec slower than Lappi. "For us it was horrendously bad. We had no grip at all. We had to think so far ahead with the notes because it took so long to get the car turned in to the corners."

SAT 09:12 - SS10: LAPPI"Some parts have quite good grip already, but it is still cleaning. Quite soft. I tried to push, but I took some strange lines - my experience last year didn't help me much."

SAT 09:06 - SS10: CONDITIONS90 per cent dry.

SAT 08:31 - STAGE INFO: SS10Newry 17 1, 20.87km. Newry runs through deep forest with barely a place where you can see out above the trees. However, shafts of light shine through the canopy, leaving shadows on the road which make it hard to spot braking points. Potentially damaging tree stumps line the roadsides and the surface is dusty in places. The route has been heavily revised, but the roads are familiar.

SAT 08:30 - NEXT STAGE: 1856HRSThat's Lappi's start time for Stage 10 Newry. Stage notes coming up.

SAT 08:29 - SS9: TROPHY. SERDERIDIS"A big physical challenge. I had a bit of a slow down in the middle but got my rhythm back before the end. The grip is fantastic."

SAT 08:26 - SS9: WRC 2 ROVANPERA"This was a very different stage and I really enjoyed it. Fun when it's technical and so long - it tests the concentration."

SAT 08:25 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS91.Mikkelsen 1h24m50.9s, 2.Neuville +15.6s, 3.Latvala +29.3s, 4.Meeke +32.8s, 5.Tänak +45.3 Latvala passes Meeke for third

SAT 08:20 - SS9: REEVESWRC TV crew reports the Aussie favourite stopped in stage at 29km. Rolled.

SAT 08:19 - SS9: MIKKELSENThird quickest here and Neuville's stage win means Mikkelsen's rally lead is trimmed to 15.6sec. "I was flat out, but we are on two different tyre strategies so we will see over the weekend. Mine was not optimum in here. I'm saving my soft tyres for later."

SAT 08:16 - SS9: MEEKEFourth quickest, and he loses third place to Latvala. "I tried, and it felt good. I have no idea why, but the other guys are just faster - and that's it."

SAT 08:14 - SS9: NEUVILLENow Thierry goes quickest - to keep Mikkelsen under pressure. "We tried to do a good stage but I was a bit disturbed by my sweating - I was sweating like hell and it affected my concentration."

SAT 08:11 - SS9: LATVALAQuickest so far - 12.9sec up on Tanak - and it looks like Jari-Matti will steal third place from Meeke here. "I definitely had a big attack, maybe too aggressive at the beginning, then I started to get the rhythm. When the conditions are like this you have to take chances."

SAT 08:07 - SS9: BREENCraig slots fifth quickest. "Feeling great. The grip was good but it's my first time here so I couldn't show my full potential."

SAT 08:04 - SS9: TANAKNow the Estonian is quickest. "The beginning was wet and felt quite good, after that it dried out and I struggled with the balance."

SAT 08:02 - SS9: PADDON7.5sec slower than Ogier here, and Paddon is just 2.2 sec ahead of the Frenchman in the standings. "I've never driven this stage so badly in my life, with the rain, full wet and mud and then dry. On these tyres it was tricky. We had to look after the soft tyres - we don't have many."

SAT 07:58 - SS9: OGIERQuickest so far, 5.4sec up on Lappi. "Full wet would have been nicer for us. Let's see what the next stage looks like. I think it will be difficult to get back in the fight but we will not give up."

SAT 07:55 - SS9: LEFEBVREThe Frenchman completes 56.5sec off Lappi's pace after his early spin. "A difficult one. After we spun it took some time to restart. Then a strange feeling with the car."

SAT 07:52 - SS9: EVANSRain at the finish now too and the Welshman completes with his wipers on. He is 19.7sec slower than Lappi. "A really enjoyable stage but the grip level is extremely low for us."

SAT 07:47 - SS9: LAPPIHe completes in 27m19.6s. "It was wet near the start so the grip was good but then it dried up and we started to struggle. We knew it would be like this. The rain was a bonus."

SAT 07:40 - SS9: SPLITS WATCHLappi still the early pace setter. He has passed the 22.1km split

SAT 07:33 - SS9: LEFEBVRESpin and a stall for the Frenchman in the opening section. He is 25.9s slower than Lappi at the 17.4km split.

SAT 07:32 - SS9: SPLITS WATCHDespite running first on the road, Lappi is the quickest of the first four drivers to the 8.6km split.

SAT 07:22 - SS9: UNDERWAYLappi and Evans in stage

SAT 07:17 - TYRE CHOICESConfirmation from Michelin on tyre numbers and compounds (hard / soft) for the morning loop. Citroën: 6S. M-Sport and Toyota: 5S. Neuville: 4S&1H. Paddon and Mikkelsen: 3S&2H

SAT 07:11 - SS9 CONDITIONSWRC TV crews report heavy rain earlier. The rain has now stopped but grey clouds are threatening more. There is standing water in some cuts and light mist at 34km. Road conditions described as 'sticky'.

SAT 07:06 - SS9: STANDBYNot long to go now. Road opener Lappi is due to start at 0718hrs

SAT 07:05 - STAGE INFO: SS9Nambucca 17, 48.89km. Nambucca is one of the longest stages of the season. It is fast and flowing with big corners and crests, although there is a 4km area in the middle which is extremely tight between trees. Jumps and small sections of asphalt mean this test has everything. It has been lengthened from 2016 with a new 2.25km segment at the finish.

SAT 07:01 - WRC LIVEOur finger-on-the-pulse radio service is LIVE with Becs Williams in the studio and Emyr Penlan and Colin Clark dashing between the stage ends. You'll find a link the LIVE CENTRE on the homepage.

SAT 06:59 - START INTERVALSThree-minute intervals today.

SAT 06:59 - RUNNING ORDERDrivers will start in reverse rally classification order today. Here's how they line up: 1. Lappi, 2. Evans, 3. Lefebvre, 4. Ogier, 5. Paddon, 6. Tänak, 7. Breen, 8. Latvala, 9. Neuville, 10. Meeke, 11. Mikkelsen

SAT 06:57 - WEATHERAnother grey and cloudy start in Coffs Harbour. The temperature is 19°C and should hit 22°C this afternoon. There was quite a bit of rain in Nambucca last night and there is a threat of more showers today.

SAT 06:57 - FIRST STAGE: 0718HRSThat's when the epic Nambucca gets underway. Crews are heading there now having left service from 0615hrs. Stage notes coming up.

SAT 06:56 - TIME ZONEAll times quoted here are local. And in Coffs Harbour that's UTC +11hrs

SAT 06:53 - SATURDAY'S ITINERARY 2/2For the afternoon pass, Nambucca becomes two new stages run consecutively; Welshs Creek (33.4 km) and Argents Hill (12.24 km). These are followed by a repeat of Newry and the second trip to the Destination NSW Super Special on the Coffs Harbour foreshore

SAT 06:52 - SATURDAY'S ITINERARY 1/2The route takes crews south of rally base Coffs Harbour and opens with the marathon Nambucca, shortened slightly since last year to just under 49 kms. The morning loop continues with Newry (20.87 km) and the stadium-style sprint 1.3 km Raceway SSS before a 30-minute service.

SAT 06:52 - COMING UP TODAYIt's the rally's second day, and with almost 12 hours at the wheel it's the longest too.

SAT 06:52 - WE'RE LIVETapping out all the news from Rally HQ in Coffs Harbour for wrc.com and the WRC App

SAT 06:51 - HI WRC TEXTERSAnd welcome back to our live coverage of the championship's final round, Kennards Hire Rally Australia

FRI 19:07 - UNTIL THENKeep an eye on wrc.com for the latest news from Coffs Harbour. And don't forget WRC where you'll find extra content like stage reviews, highlights programmes and our exclusive driver-endorsed onboard comparison system. Bye for now.

FRI 19:05 - JOIN US ON SATURDAYFor day two. We'll be here from 0718hrs, when the action kicks off with the 48km marathon Nambucca

FRI 19:01 - STAGES COMPLETEAnd that's where we'll end our live text coverage from Australia today

FRI 18:59 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS81.Mikkelsen 57m51.9s, 2.Neuville +20.1s, 3.Meeke +20.8s, 4.Latvala +29.9s, 5.Breen +30.8. Neuville up to second.

FRI 18:57 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS71.Mikkelsen 56m49.3s, 2.Meeke 21.0s, 3.Neuville 21.8s, 4.Latvala 30.0s, 5.Breen 31.2

FRI 18:56 - SS8: OGIER"We expected to have some difficulties today but the car's small technical issue made it even harder. Tomorrow we be the same story - we just start again. What can I do? Nothing - just drive."

FRI 18:54 - SS8: NEUVILLEQuickest so far and he slots second overnight. "I'm satisfied. I think we have done the maximum we could today. We gave it a go and I'm still aiming for victory. It's a pity the start order was settled two stage ago - it will be difficult against Andreas but we will try."

FRI 18:51 - SS8: TANAK"Not bad, but it should have been better. Tomorrow we need the whole package - at least my road position will be better than today."

FRI 18:50 - SS8: LATVALA"Today has been generally okay. I'm quite pleased with the afternoon but I wasn't consistent enough in the morning. Now we focus on day two. We won't have a bad road position."

FRI 18:47 - SS8: EVANS"Today has not been great in terms of overall performance. This afternoon was better - with a better feeling for the stages. Second on the road tomorrow will mean a struggle in the first passes I think."

FRI 18:45 - BATCH TWOThe second group of drivers are clear of Stage 7 and are heading for the second pass.

FRI 18:41 - SS8: MEEKEIt's second overnight for Kris, 20.8sec behind Mikkelsen. "I really enjoyed it, a very good day," he says. "Just one mistake today, and in a way I was lucky it happened when it did. Okay, those 12 seconds would have put me closer to Andreas, but there's a long way to go. I'm enjoying the car, so we'll see how we do tomorrow - a 50km stage at 7am will be interesting."

FRI 18:36 - SS8: BREENQuickest so far on the stage. "I made a silly mistake on the first pass but that was much better. We've had a couple of things go against us this afternoon but otherwise for our first day down under no so bad."

FRI 18:34 - SS8: PADDON"A pretty straightforward stage here - a bit of fun. The day hasn't been what we wanted but tonight we'll go back to the drawing board and look to improve tomorrow. We'll look through the data and try and find something."

FRI 18:33 - SS8: MIKKELSENLast year's rally winner and this year's rally leader is safely though. "A really nice day, trying to take advantage of my road position. We have driven clean stages, with no mistakes, and we have a good lead to take into tomorrow. We will try and increase our lead in the morning but I'm sure Kris and Thierry will put up a big fight."

FRI 18:29 - SS8: LAPPIThat's the day complete for Esapekka. How do you sum it up? "We lost the race at the same time as the power steering. The afternoon was positive - let's say it like this - but it's not so good to be cleaning the road tomorrow."

FRI 18:25 - SS7: TIMESMikkelsen the fastest of a batch of five World Rally Car drivers to complete SS7. We will hear from this group shortly, after they complete a second pass as SS8.

FRI 18:14 - SS7/SS8: LEFEBVREThe Frenchman quickest so far with a 1m04.4s on SS8

FRI 18:13 - WELCOME BACKSo, all eyes on the Destination NSW SSS as the top ten drivers make their final preparations

FRI 15:27 - RUNNING ORDERWill be reversed for the Super Special. The World Rally Cars will be on stage from 1832hrs. We'll take a live text break until then.

FRI 15:14 - STAGE INFO: SS7 / SS8Destination NSW SSS 1 / 2, 1.27km. Coffs Harbour's fan favourite street stage in the jetty area is concentrated in a small area that provides stunning views of Boambee Beach. The action on the mainly asphalt stage will be spectacular with roundabout turns, a banked corner and two jumps. Driven in a different format to 2016.

FRI 15:14 - UP NEXT: REGROUPCars are heading back to Coffs Harbour for a regroup before tonight's two Super Special passes.

FRI 14:59 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS61.Mikkelsen 55m45.6s, 2.Meeke +20.9s, 3.Neuville +23.1s, 4.Latvala +30.4s, 5.Breen +31.1

FRI 14:56 - SS6: TROPHY: SERDERIDIS"A perfect day. We improved almost 1sec per kilometer on the second pass. We have a good night tonight!"

FRI 14:52 - SS6: WRC 2 ROVANPERA"Slippery at the beginning and I made a few big slides, but the feeling was good. We sometimes lose engine power - the pop-off valve I think."

FRI 14:49 - SS6: LEFEBVRE"In the last five kilometers I lost the rhythm a bit. I made a small mistake and lost my concentration. I lost a few seconds there. Considering the punctures this was not the day I was expecting."

FRI 14:47 - SS6: LAPPIFifth quickest and his car has been speared by a huge stick. it's lodged in the front splitter - just inches from the radiator. "It's difficult to judge the corner grip here, it feels like a first pass," he says.

FRI 14:41 - SS6: MIKKELSENQuickest so far to extend his rally lead to 20.9sec. "Really amazing. I'm really enjoying my third rally with Hyundai - the car feels like home now. Things are looking very good."

FRI 14:39 - SS6: PADDON7.7sec off the pace here. "The soft tyre was not the right choice. It felt like I had a puncture here."

FRI 14:37 - SS6: BREENHis previously damaged tyre is now swapped to the front-right. There are signs of contact to the rear left. "I had a fairly huge jump near the end," he explains. "I had a bad feeling near the start, a bad vibration, I hit a bale."

FRI 14:34 - SS6: MEEKEThird quickest on his soft-compound set-up. "Fine. Just trying to figure it out. Neuville on hard tyres has made two seconds over the loop. Seems like the tyres choices were a mixed bag."

FRI 14:30 - SS6: EVANS8.6sec off the pace. "Pretty good. It felt like a good run."

FRI 14:28 - SS6: LATVALAJoint fastest with Neuville on 12m39.8s. "I wanted to to be faster than that but I did all I could on these hard tyres. It was not so clean as I thought, especially in the cuts where there was dirt on the road. I was a bit too careful where it was dirty."

FRI 14:24 - SS6: TANAK1.6sec slower than Neuville. "Same as this morning with the missing aero. No other issues."

FRI 14:21 - SS6: NEUVILLE5.4sec quicker than Ogier. "I struggled a bit on the soft tyres here - especially at the rear. I couldn't really push and lost a bit of time here."

FRI 14:19 - SS6: OGIER"It's been a tough day for us. We tried to do our best but for sure it's not so easy to drive with the gear shift problem. We didn't manage to fix it this time - the paddles worked intermittently here."

FRI 13:58 - NEXT STAGE: 1403HRSThat's the repeat of the 16km Sherwood.

FRI 13:48 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS5:1.Mikkelsen 43m07.5s, 2.Meeke 18.7s, 3.Neuville 21.4s, 4.Breen 26.2s, 5.Paddon 28.0

FRI 13:46 - SS5: WRC 2 ROVANPERA"I changed the rear set up and it feels good - nice to drive. The pace notes are quite good with the new set-up. We have some problem with a sensor, which is costing us some power, but it's okay."

FRI 13:42 - SS5: LEFEBVRESixth fastest. "Same story as before - I have one more puncture in the first stage. With one spare I have to be careful. Not good."

FRI 13:39 - SS5: LAPPI"I was giving my all but I couldn't judge the grip level on the first pass. It seems I am too slow."

FRI 13:36 - SS5: MIKKELSENSecond quickest for Andreas, who completes one-tenth slower than his teammate Neuville. "It was good clean stage with no problems, just trying to keep a good rhythm." Mikkelsen extends his rally lead over Meeke to 18.7s.

FRI 13:33 - SS5: PADDON"Trying to attack a bit more. It went a bit better here but still room for improvement. I don't expect tyre wear will be a problem on the next stage."

FRI 13:30 - SS5: BREEN"Not really satisfied, I had to leave the soft tyre on for this stage."

FRI 13:27 - SS5: MEEKE"A good stage, I couldn't do any more. Quite happy with my tyres. Hopefully it's a good package for the next stage. Let's see."

FRI 13:24 - SS5: EVANS"A bit better on the repeat pass, for sure I have a bit more confidence."

FRI 13:21 - SS5: LATVALASecond quickest so far. "Okay. We took a hard tyre, and on the loose gravel it's okay, but on the polished surfaces I'm struggling."

FRI 13:19 - SS5: TANAKHis rear bumper and diffuser have completely gone. "It was quite a slippery road, not so easy, and no aero again, so quite challenging." How does the lack of aero make the car behave? "We are driving looking through the side windows."

FRI 13:15 - SS5: NEUVILLE11.6sec quicker than Ogier. "Maybe sliding a little too much but I tried to push. Did Sebastien have a problem? If not, it would be too big a gap."

FRI 13:13 - SS5: OGIER"The gear shift issue makes it harder but we do our best. I think it's an electronic issue."

FRI 13:11 - SS5: LIVEAnd Ogier is approaching the finish control. Standby...

FRI 13:10 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS4:1.Mikkelsen 33m18.6s, 2.Meeke 17.9s, 3.Breen 20.3s, 4.Neuville 21.5s, 5.Latvala 24.0

FRI 13:08 - SS4: MIKKELSENQuickest so far and his rally lead over Meeke is up to 17.9sec. "A good stage. I took the compression quite hard but otherwise good. Still quite slippery though."

FRI 13:07 - TYRE CHOICESConfirmation from Michelin on tyre numbers and compounds (hard / soft) its drivers have for the afternoon loop. Citroën and Latvala: 4H&1S. Hyundai: 5S. Lappi: 3H&2S. M-Sport: 3S&2H

FRI 13:05 - SS4: PADDON"Still not quite on it as much as everyone else. Two or three little mistakes here and they all add up."

FRI 13:03 - SS4: BREENHis rear-right tyre has been pushed off the rim. "I think it happened near the start. I have four hard tyres and one soft - that tyre was coming off anyway. I'm really happy with my choice for the whole loop."

FRI 12:59 - SS4: MEEKE"Okay, just one bad dip near the start. Everyone is on a bit of a mixture of tyres. I'm happy with mine."

FRI 12:58 - SS4: EVANSThe footwell of his Fiesta is full of water." I think we blew a seal in the water splash."

FRI 12:57 - SS4: LATVALAThird quickest so far. Latvala's car looking good except for damage to the right-hand bottom corner of the windscreen. "We hit a stick in a bank 3km from the start," he explains. And road conditions now? "It isn't too messy. I took it maybe too careful in the beginning after that I got better."

FRI 12:51 - SS4: TANAK2.8sec off the pace. There's damage to his rear bumper and the rear diffuser is missing again. Tanak doesn't hang around to explain what happened.

FRI 12:47 - SS4: NEUVILLEOne tenth slower than Ogier. "All good. It's working. Quite slippery but better than this morning." And with that he sets off to the next stage.

FRI 12:45 - SS4: OGIERHe completes in 5m14.7s, that's 5.1sec quicker than his earlier pass, but Seb has a problem. "Again a shifting issue. Inconsistent," he explains. Like Tanak earlier, his car is missing its rear diffuser.

FRI 12:40 - WEATHER UPDATEA warm 23°C in Coffs Harbour. Skies still overcast and grey. Rain a possibility.

FRI 12:37 - SS4: UNDERWAYOgier in stage!

FRI 11:17 - NEXT STAGE: 1237HRSThat's Ogier's start time for the repeat of Pilbara. We'll take a live text break until then.

FRI 11:14 - SERVICE: BREEN"Sherwood [SS3] was awesome. I'm driving with a big smile on my face. When the car works and it gives you rewards it's such a nice feeling. I can't wait to get back out there again."

FRI 11:12 - SERVICE: PADDON"We should have made more use of our road position but we're still struggling. There's a lot of hesitation, too many corrections on the throttle. I know where I need to be better, making it happen is the hard part. We'll go through the data now and see what we can do."

FRI 11:10 - SERVICE: MEEKE"Generally quite happy. The speed has been good - just the one mistake in the third stage when I was too optimistic in a third-gear corner. That cost 10 or 12 seconds which has given Andreas a bit of a gap. I'm a bit frustrated by my mistake, now I need a good strong afternoon. I still think the battle is on - anything can happen."

FRI 11:05 - SERVICE: LATVALA"I lost the front splitter 300 metres into the first stage. I don't know what the morning would have been like if that hadn't happened. I'm not completely happy, I know I can do a better job and at the moment I'm not getting the best out of myself. I want to win so I need to push myself - get some espresso and maybe hit myself a bit..."

FRI 10:59 - SERVICE: TANAK"It's always challenging here and it was hard to understand what was happening when we lost the rear aero. Something didn't feel right, but there is so much aero on the cars now it was hard to know exactly what was wrong."

FRI 10:57 - SERVICE: NEUVILLE"Pretty good, I'm satisfied with our morning. A bit cautious at the beginning of the first stage, but we got more and more into it. We knew we would lose time in the gravel but it wasn't so bad. We need to focus on a maximum push this afternoon. Road position is the key thing tomorrow - if you don't have a good one you might as well get straight on the plane home."

FRI 10:53 - SERVICE: OGIER"It started quite okay on the first stage, then on the second the paddle-shift issue cost a couple of seconds. The third was very slippery and we lost a bit more. Okay, not the optimum start, but we expected a tough day. We must keep pushing because tomorrow's conditions will be even worse if I can't get any cars in front of us. I have nothing to lose, so we keep pushing and let's see what we can do."

FRI 10:41 - SERVICEPARK LIVEOur cameras are streaming live from the service park, so you can watch teams re-prep their cars from 1124hrs. You'll find a link in the LIVE CENTRE

FRI 10:34 - UP NEXT: SERVICECrews are heading back to Coff's Harbour for a regroup and the 30 min midpoint service. First car into regroup at 1104hrs.

FRI 10:31 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS31.Mikkelsen 28m04.6s, 2.Meeke 16.6s, 3.Breen 17.7s, 4.Neuville 20.7s, 5.Tanak 20.9

FRI 10:29 - SS3: WRC 2 ROVANPERA"Really nice - my best stage ever in conditions like this. I'm starting to trust my new pace notes so it's much nicer to drive."

FRI 10:25 - SS3: LEFEBVRESecond quickest - 6.3sec slower than Mikkelsen. "I'm happy with this one. A lot of road cleaning and it's better for us."

FRI 10:24 - SS3: LAPPITwo minutes off the pace due to his lack of power steering. "It's tough, but there's really no point to drive faster. I'm already on the edge of keeping the car on the road."

FRI 10:19 - SS3: MIKKELSENAnother stage win - and by a massive 6.8sec from Breen. "It's been a good morning and the car is acting just as I want it too. I was lifting the throttle way too much in here, so we'll change that for the second run. We're really enjoying our time in the car and these beautiful stages."

FRI 10:16 - SS3: PADDONThird quickest. "A nice stage, and maybe it's just the conditions, but it feels like we have no engine power. Because of that our pace notes are too slow and we're having to make adjustments. We'll take a look in service."

FRI 10:14 - SS3: BREENFastest so far - five tenths up on Tanak - and Craig is reduced to tears at the finish control. "That was awesome. When it all comes together it's just absolutely perfect. I love what I do.:"

FRI 10:12 - SS3: MEEKEKris loses around 12sec in a hairy moment near the finish. "In knew we were too quick for a corner. We ran wide off the road and into bushes - I had to stop, reverse, turn and go." His car looks okay.

FRI 10:08 - SS3: EVANSJust 7.7sec slower than stage leader Tanak. "The first half was exceptionally difficult - so little grip when it's loose. But when we went off down hill it didn't seem so bad."

FRI 10:05 - SS3: LATVALASecond quickest so far. "I'm happy with the car now after the intercom issue. I thought we had a good run here but when I look at the other times I'm not so sure. I wanted to be closer to Ott."

FRI 10:02 - SS3: TANAKQuickest so far, 9.1sec up on Ogier. "Maybe I was not smart enough on the previous stage when I tried to rebalance the set-up after losing the diffuser. This time I made settings the other way, to give a lot more grip to the rear, and it was much more driveable."

FRI 09:58 - SS3: NEUVILLE5.2sec quicker than Ogier. "I tried to give my best in here, it's a very fast stage with a lot of cleaning. Okay, I took something from Ogier but I guess we'll lose more to the guys behind."

FRI 09:56 - SS3: OGIERHe completes in 13m07.5s - according to the splits that's a few seconds down on his rivals. "The gear shift was working properly this time, it an electric problem and we could fix it. This stage was like driving on a beach though - no grip."

FRI 09:35 - STAGE INFO: SS3Sherwood 1, 26.68km. Sherwood begins on a wide uphill road and the opening few kilometres are fast and flowing with plenty of corners requiring full commitment. After 10km the stage narrows and the second half contains several muddy sections which could easily catch out drivers.

FRI 09:35 - NEXT STAGE: 0939HRSThat's Ogier's start time for Sherwood.

FRI 09:34 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS21.Mikkelsen 15m13.5s, 2.Meeke 3.0s, 3.Neuville 9.5s, 4.Latvala 10.6s, 5.Breen 10.9. Lappi broken power steering

FRI 09:33 - SS2: LAPPI UPDATE"I can't find where the oil is coming from. I will go on without power steering, and we will lose a lot of time, but we might be able to get it fixed in service."

FRI 09:30 - SS2: TROPHY: SERDERIDIS"A little bit loose in the last part otherwise we have chosen the right set up for traction. A good start. Our objective here is to have fun and to get my co-driver Fred the WRC Trophy co-drivers' title."

FRI 09:25 - SS2: LAPPI UPDATEHis Toyota left a trail of oil from the stage end and Lappi has parked nearby to investigate. The front-right wheel is off and Lappi is under the car having a look.

FRI 09:23 - SS2: WRC 2 ROVANPERA"It's okay but I have a new pace note system and I have to think about them more. I need to learn more about them in the technical sections. The rally is fun and going really well."

FRI 09:19 - SS2: LEFEBVREA cautious run from the Frenchman after his puncture on SS1. "I have no spare wheel now," he explains. "I can go faster but I must finish the loop."

FRI 09:18 - SS2: LAPPIThe car looks okay but he's lost over a minute. What happened? "I lost the power steering suddenly - I have no idea why." And the spin? "On a hairpin right there was a step up and I just couldn't keep the wheel in my hand, the steering is so stiff, and I needed to reverse. I will try my best on the next stage but it's going to be tough."

FRI 09:14 - SS2: LAPPIWRC TV crews report a spin and reverse mid stage.

FRI 09:13 - SS2: MIKKELSENQuickest so far and Mikkelsen's rally lead from Meeke is up to 3sec. "I enjoy these stage. A good start to the morning. We must continue like this. The dust is bad in places but we try not to think about it."

FRI 09:10 - AUSTRALIA AFTER SS11.Mikkelsen 5m17.2s, 2.Meeke 1.3s, 3.Ogier 2.6s, 4.Paddon 4.8s, 5.Neuville 5.0

FRI 09:09 - SS2: PADDON"The grip is difficult, a lot lower than we were expecting and it's not cleaning. I'm struggling with the balance of the car - but it could be worse."

FRI 09:07 - SS2: BREENFourth quickest so far. "You need big confidence here, big Kahunas! You have to push as hard as you can. We need to keep pushing to get a good position for tomorrow."

FRI 09:04 - SS2: MEEKEHis C3 is sporting a deep gash in its front-left tyre. "It happened on a slow corner, we touched a bank. There is really bad dust in here - it's on the limit I'd say. We need to think about increasing the time gap."

FRI 09:02 - SS1: LEFEBVRE16.2sec off the pace. Right-rear puncture.

FRI 09:00 - SS2: EVANS"Patches of really bad dust in here. The grip was pretty bad, it's always the same here."

FRI 08:59 - SS2: LATVALASecond quickest so far. "The intercom is good now, the cable to my helmet was broken but we fitted a spare. Without the front diffuser the front turn-in wasn't so good. I didn't expect this stage to be so tough."

FRI 08:55 - SS2: TANAK3.8sec off Neuville's pace, Tanak reports understeer and oversteer - not helped by his missing rear diffuser. "We need to take a look at the settings"

FRI 08:53 - SS2: NEUVILLE5.3sec quicker than Ogier. "I was able to push more I but I am moving around too much - tricky grip and I am hesitating too much."

FRI 08:52 - SS2: OGIERHe completes in 10m06.1s and reports a gear selection issue. He has switched to the manual system.

FRI 08:47 - STAGE INFO: SS2Eastbank 1, 19.05km. A new stage for 2017, although parts were driven in the opposite direction 12 months ago. It is moderately rough at the start and finish but smoother elsewhere. It mixes fast roads with big sweeping corners and tighter more technical sections.

FRI 08:47 - SS2: LIVEOgier almost at the stop control. We'll bring you quotes from both stages as we get them. Stage notes for SS2 coming up.

FRI 08:46 - SS1: MIKKELSEN1.3sec quicker than Meeke and Andreas leads the stage. There is evidence of contact to the right-rear corner of his Hyundai - in fact a big section of rear bumper is hanging off - but the Norwegian is all smiles. "A clean drive, no mistakes. I'm happy with that. I could have pushed more but for a first stage that was a clean run."

FRI 08:42 - SS1: PADDONThird quickest. "It felt quite strange near the start, like I had a rear puncture, but it didn't get any worse so maybe the rear is just moving around. We'll have a look before the next one."

FRI 08:40 - SS1: BREENThe Citroen driver slots fifth quickest on his Rally Australia debut. "Okay, but it took me too long to get started in here. The stage time is in the ball park, we'll keep the push on."

FRI 08:36 - SS1: MEEKEQuickest so far, 1.3sec up on Ogier. "I'm quite surprised by Seb's time from first on the road. I expected the road to clean. I'm happy with my run."

FRI 08:33 - SS1: EVANS7.4sec off the pace here in his DMACK-shod Fiesta. "Not so bad, but the grip seemed very, very low."

FRI 08:31 - SS1: LATVALA3.2sec off the pace and his Toyota's front diffuser is loose and dragging under the car. "I think it happened at the first corner - under heavy braking we hit one of the rubber things that protect the road. Otherwise I didn't drive well, I have a problem with the intercom - a broken cable I think. I didn't hear all the notes, very distracting."

FRI 08:28 - SS1: TANAK2.7sec slower than Ogier and three tenths slower than Neuville. Why? "They are doing a good job I guess - nothing else. Not such a good feeling with the car here." His Fiesta is missing its rear diffuser.

FRI 08:25 - SS1: NEUVILLE4.1sec slower than Seb at the midpoint, he completes 2.4sec slower. "It was okay, I was not pushing very hard," he explains. "The grip was higher than I expected on these soft tyres, there was some dust hanging around, I didn't go really really fast. I think the early split is a mistake - I kept the same rhythm throughout."

FRI 08:21 - SS1: OGIERFirst to complete in 5m19.8s. There is some light damage the front of his Fiesta - it sounds watersplash-related. "It's rough in places, a bad watersplash and compression but we didn't touch anything," he said. "As I expected it was slippery, we have to try and push our best."

FRI 08:16 - SS1: LIVEOgier started on schedule. Neuville in stage too.

FRI 08:10 - STAGE INFO: SS1Pilbara 1, 9.71km. A new 3.51km section at the start ushers in roads that are familiar from previous years. The initial part features two watersplashes before switching to a harder surface. It is fast all the way, with plenty of long straights and quick corners to test the brave. Trees have been felled to give improved vision and the surface is smooth throughout.

FRI 08:09 - WRC LIVEOur radio service is LIVE with Becs Williams in the studio and Emyr Penlan and Colin Clark reporting from the stage ends. You'll find a link the LIVE CENTRE on the homepage.

FRI 08:09 - START INTERVALSThree-minute intervals today.

FRI 08:09 - RUNNING ORDERDrivers will start in championship order today. Here's how they line up: 1. Ogier, 2. Neuville, 3. Tänak, 4. Latvala, 5. Evans, 6. Meeke, 7. Breen, 8. Paddon, 9. Mikkelsen, 10. Lappi, 11. Lefebvre

FRI 08:07 - WEATHERAfter plenty of summer sunshine in the last few days, it's a grey and cloudy start in Coffs Harbour today. The temperature is 19°C and should hit 23°C this afternoon. Some spots of rain reported on Stage 2, and there is a threat of more widespread showers later.

FRI 08:02 - FIRST STAGE: 0713HRSThat's when the opening Pilbara stage gets underway. Crews are heading there now having left service from 0730hrs. Stage notes coming up.

FRI 08:02 - TIMESAll times quoted here are local. And in Coffs Harbour that's UTC +11hrs

FRI 08:02 - FRIDAY'S ITINERARYPilbara (9.7 km), Eastbank (19.0 km) and Sherwood (26.6 km) will run in the morning and again in the afternoon after a midpoint service. The day ends with the first of two visits to the Destination NSW Super Special, set between the Coffs Harbour Jetty foreshore on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other. Drivers will make two passes of the short 1.2 km stage as Stage 7 and Stage 8.

FRI 08:01 - COMING UP TODAYThe opening day of competition. And compared to 2016, there is a new look to Friday when the action moves from south of the Coffs Harbour service park to a trio of fast and open stages to the north. Add in a bit of super special action and we're looking at eight stages and 57 competitive kilometres

FRI 08:00 - WE'RE LIVETapping out news from Rally HQ in Coffs Harbour via wrc.com and the WRC App

FRI 07:59 - G'DAY FOLKSAnd welcome to our live text coverage of Kennards Hire Rally Australia, the final round of the WRC season.