

## Speed limit alert software unveiled

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By Drew Cratchley

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### **AN Australian company has devised a device to help motorists keep track of confusing speed-limit changes on Australian roads.**

Sydney company Smart Car Technologies today launched its SpeedAlert software, which, when downloaded to a mobile phone, alerts drivers to the speed limit of the road they are travelling.

SpeedAlert uses Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to track a vehicle's journey and speed and compares this with the speed limit of the road.

The product's inventor, George Germanos, said it was not a device to help motorists cheat speed cameras.

"SpeedAlert is not about avoiding speeding, it is about being aware of the speed limit," Mr Germanos said at the launch.

The software can be downloaded to personal digital assistants (PDAs) with Windows capability, but will soon be available for many new-model mobile phones.

When mounted on a vehicle's dashboard, the mobile phone or PDA displays the prevailing speed limit and the car's speed.

A beeping sound is emitted when the speed limit is exceeded, and also alerts the driver to speed cameras, red-light cameras and school zones.

SpeedAlert is available only for the Sydney metropolitan area, but is expected to be functional in Melbourne before the end of 2006, and in all capital cities and major centres by June 2007.

Its makers say SpeedAlert's capacity will eventually extend to the nation's main highways.

The technology relies on a database of a city's streets, painstakingly compiled by its maker.

"I found that there was no database out there," Mr Germanos said.

"So we sent out a few teams of people, and we drove every street of Sydney."

The NRMA supports the initiative, saying many motorists are often confused by constant changes in speed limits, particularly in 40km/h school zones.

"Our research has shown that motorists are often confused with frequently changing speed zones," an NRMA spokesman said.

"We've surveyed motorists about school zones and we've found that more than a third of motorists weren't slowing down in school zones and often it is because they don't know they're there."

SpeedAlert is the first product of its kind in the world, Mr Germanos said.

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