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- by: *Political Reporter Lauren Novak*
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MOTORISTS can register for SMS or email reminders to renew their car registration from today and in future will be able to opt out of receiving the traditional reminder letter by mail.

The State Government expects about 30 per cent of motorists to take up the option for the free e-alerts, modelled on a program already operating in Western Australia, within about three years.

Users can register up to two email addresses and two mobile phone numbers to which up to three reminders can be sent each.

"So all in all you have the option to receive up to 12 reminders that your registration is either due or is one day overdue," Finance Minister Michael O'Brien said.

"People that are highly mobile and are moving home and fail to notify a change of address will no longer have to worry that they'll be driving an unregistered vehicle."

The fines for driving unregistered and uninsured are more than \$380 and \$660 respectively.

Many drivers previously relied on car registration stickers to keep track of expiry dates, but the Government abolished the stickers in July 2011.

Mr O'Brien said the new electronic alerts were being introduced in part "to give surety to those motorists who feel a little uncertain because they no longer have the registration sticker on their windscreen."

He said the scheme, which will cost about \$120,000, would save the government money in the long term.

"We're hoping in due course that if the take-up is as strong as we predict that the individuals who are receiving the electronic reminders ... will opt not to receive the paper version," he said.

"The cost of generating an SMS on a phone is something like 10c as opposed to \$1.20 per letter so there are considerable savings for government in this initiative, but we're not going to rush it."

Mr O'Brien said the government would introduce the option to opt out of receiving a letter in three or four years.

South Australian company Skunkworks Australia is providing the eNotice service.

To access the eNotice system log on to www.sa.gov.au/enotice and select "Get a reminder".