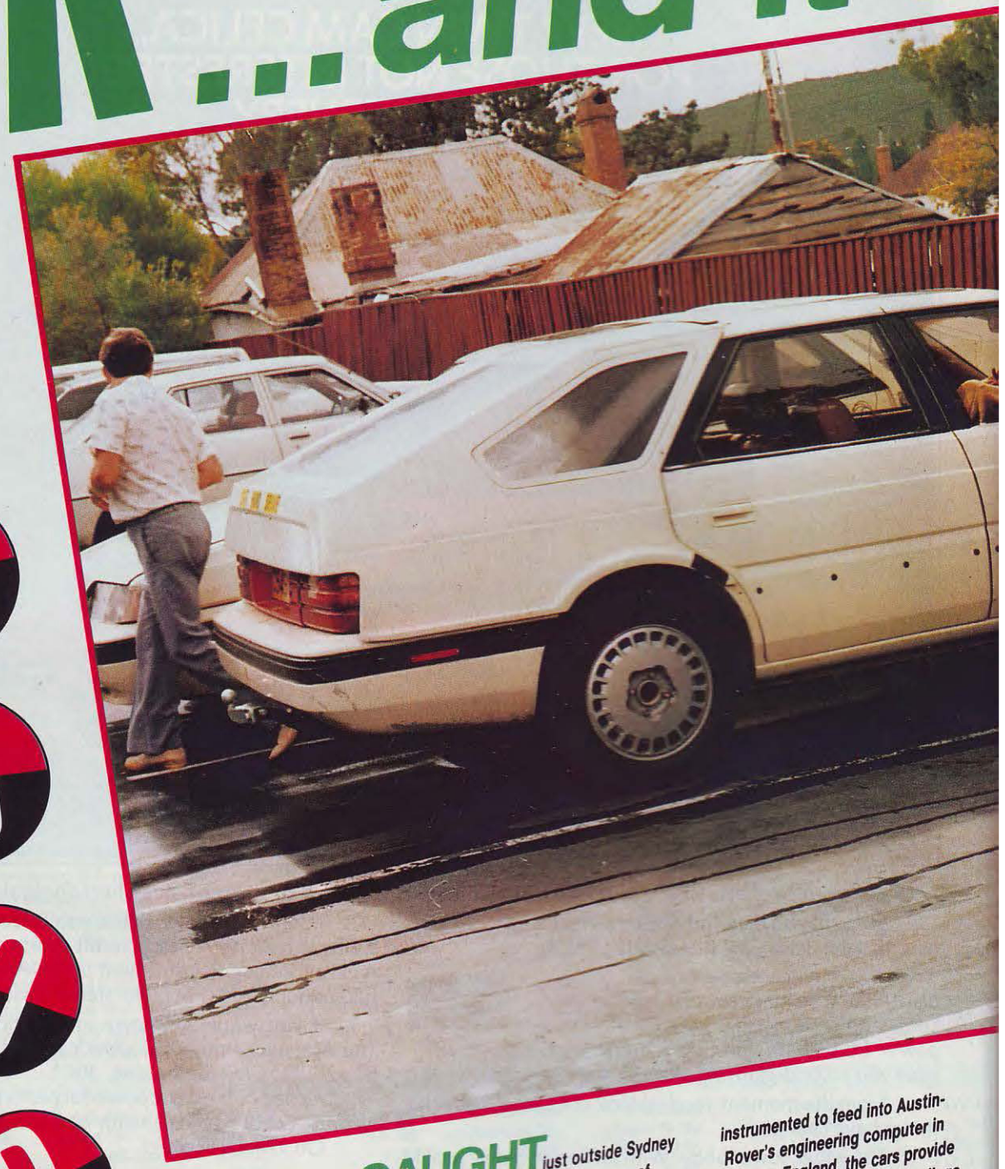
# XX ... and it's here



**CAUGHT** just outside Sydney during early February, two of Rover's new XX prototypes. Heavily disguised to give the appearance of a hatchback, the two left hand drive sedans are here for evaluation purposes. Fully instrumented to feed into Austin-Rover's engineering computer in Canley, England, the cars provide the computer with exact readings on the test roads used around Sydney in developing the car for our conditions.

**Most WHEELS readers would know by now that the XX – will it be called the 800, which is the name used in Britain, or the Sterling, which is the title given to the car for the US market? – is based on the Honda Legend. Cars sold in Australia will come with Honda's 2.5 litre V6 engine and will be built in Japan, unless the yen strengthens even more against the Australia dollar. Honda expects the Legend to go on sale here in June/July but the Rover version won't arrive until early next year although it will be shown to the Australian press as part of the international launch in June.**

**The two cars we photographed are old mules and were used for testing for at least 18 months in England before they arrived in Australia early in January. One of the cars has the extended bumpers required by US law. Apart from the tail the grille, headlight surrounds and bonnet are also obviously not production items. In detail the car will follow the style of the pre-production cars, photographs of which we ran in January and February issues.**