Do you find driving tiring? Well so do we!

Let us introduce you to *Take a Break, Mate*. Give me a break mate! No seriously, give yourself a break. Fatigue is a serious safety concern when engaging in long-distance travel. In a fast-paced society where the journey is only the means to an end, how do we get drivers to slow down and ‘take a break’?

This entry is by The Data Highway in Mount Gambier, South Australia, with team member Breydon at the wheel.

Take a Break, Mate has been designed with driver safety and engagement in mind. In South Australia last year, a total of 13599 reportable collisions occurred on our roads which were recorded in the Road Crash Dataset. Of these, 141 occurred in Millicent, Mount Gambier and Naracoorte. This is without considering those collisions that took place on highways and country roads between these towns. South Australians living in regional areas drive longer and further to get to key parts of their lives. Whether this be shopping, healthcare, entertainment or even sport.

Take a break, Mate is a solution designed to improve driver judgement on the road, increase tourism and most importantly, raise awareness of locations that are high risk areas for drivers.

Time and time again, we learn that driver judgement and fatigue management become impaired after long periods behind the wheel. To address this issue, our solution introduces a game, which would be targeted at newer and/or younger drivers. The game would, based on the user’s location, find ‘trouble spots’ from the Road Crash Dataset where accidents have occurred in the past, and provide situations to the player where they can either choose a tourist attraction, or continue driving. Based on the choice the user makes, they may either be rewarded or penalised.

By identifying the locations of high risk from the Road Crash Locations dataset, users can also access a standalone version of the ‘trouble spots’ map, without playing the game.

Finally, users will be able to view places of tourism nearby them as found in the State Tourism Forecasts dataset. This will allow the users to explore the area and ‘take a break’ whilst on the road.

So, next time you’re feeling tired on the road, download our app and ‘Take a Break, Mate!’.