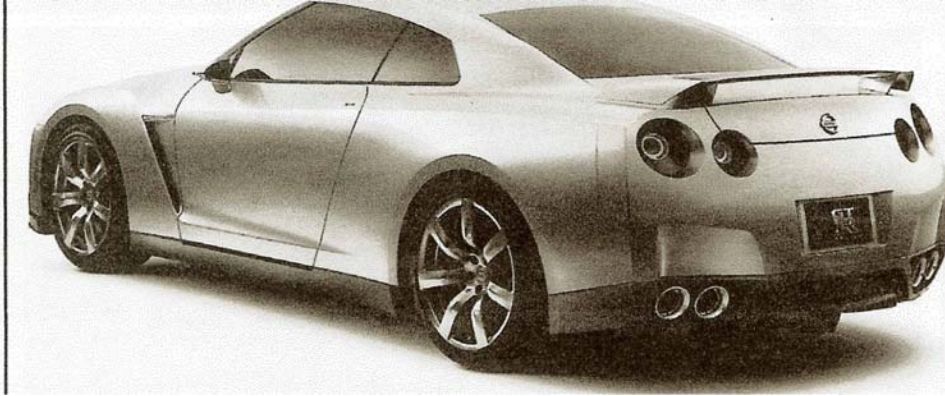


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The Nissan SkylineGT-R PROTO.

Coup taking shape

Chris Riley

GODZILLA is coming.

The car that conquered Bathurst, and with it, the best that Ford and Holden could muster, is set to return to Australia.

Nissan has confirmed its commitment to building the next generation Skyline GT-R and it is headed our way.

The company has unveiled the GT-R PROTO and says the car is now 80 to 90 per cent production ready. The red hot sports coupe enjoys a huge cult following and is sought after on the grey import market.

Grey imports are cars that are privately imported without the benefit of manufacturer support and that often do not meet stringent Australian design standards.

But they still manage to fetch big money, in the GT-R's case based on reputation

The Nissan Skyline GT-R shot to fame in

1991 when it swept to victory in the Bathurst 1000 race.

With all-wheel drive, all-wheel steer and a powerful twin turbo straight six, the GT-R overwhelmed the local engineered, rear-wheel drive V8 powered Fords and Holdens.

Officially Nissan brought just 100 of the GT-R super cars to Australia in 1991 under the low volume import rule. Even at \$110,000 apiece, it had little trouble selling.

Insiders are tipping a power output of 350kW based on a twin turbo version of Nissan's brilliant 350Z engine.

One thing is certain and that is the GT-R will not be adapted from any other model, but will be a purpose-built coupe.

Some have even suggested that it will be branded Infiniti.

Unlike the previous model sold here, Nissan Australia confirmed the car will be submitted for full compliance so that it will not be limited in the numbers it can sell.

Why does the government allow cars to come into this State that blatantly bypass our safety laws. The Nissan Skyline GT -R that was here in 1991 for sale at \$110,000 is now sold for \$15,000 to \$20,000. Affordable to many first drivers, especially when parents seem to be providing the funds for their teenagers first cars these days.

These sorts of cars can easily be identified on the registration sticker.