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CarAdvice.com  
Trent Nikolic  
Managing Editor  
52 Victoria Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

14 June 2018

Dear Mr Nikolic,

We write to express our concerns about the insulting and poorly worded article 'Victorian High Country: This is not America' published on *CarAdvice.com*. The Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA) is the largest organisation representing 188,000-plus members and nearly one million Australians who participate in the safe, all-inclusive recreation of shooting and hunting. Many of our members also enjoy off-road driving and own 4WDs and SUVs.

The article, written by Rob Margeit, appears to cast the lawful and legitimate recreation of hunting as some kind of dark, underground criminal activity. What's more, the use of emotive language portrays hunters as crazed, untrustworthy killers. "Men with guns and injured – or worse – dogs make for a dangerous combination," he writes, also adding: "Maybe I'm the prey." It would be humorous if it wasn't so insulting.

As the 'Culture and Lifestyle Editor', Mr Margeit may not be aware that sports shooting and hunting itself is one of the few accessible activities for people of all genders and ages. By its nature, hunting is a highly controlled activity, with laws and regulations making it one of the safest pursuits in the country. Hunters have a deep connection with the land, with many of us volunteering our time to conduct feral or pest animal control for farmers or in our National Parks.

Many members have contacted us saying they view the article as an unfair and unnecessary swipe at the licensed shooter, who has gone through all the checks and balances to prove they are a fit and proper person. Firearms in the right hands pose no threat to society. It is the criminal misuse of firearms that warrants attention, not the harmless group of hunters Mr Margeit observes in his article.

We trust the views of 188,000-plus members of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia and one million licensed firearm owners are respectfully received. We politely request a response so we can share this with our members.

Regards,

Tim Bannister  
CEO  
SSAA National