

When we first get involved, we're not sure how we can contribute. It can take a while to find 'the thing that we can do'. Some of us lack confidence. Then there are the technical issues of gasfields and fracking. This can all seem a bit daunting at first. Some may feel unsure, hesitate, and drift away.

Read it – Write it – Talk it is a process for new volunteers. It breaks down information into bite-sized chunks. Because the act of writing helps organise information in our brains, it helps you gain confidence. And it's practical: we need people writing to newspapers, and phoning talk-back radio.

In a nutshell

Chose a topic, such as *Water use and impacts of fracking*, or *Health & unconventional gas*

Read about it, using fact sheets provided by FFF, LTG and other sources of information

Write a letter on that topic to a newspaper. By writing it straight away, you're bedding the facts down. You will retain the information and become more fluent when sharing it.

Talk about this issue...immediately.

Call your local talkback radio (have their number in your phone). Or raise the issue with your work colleagues. Even better, join in regular stalls, and start conversations with people about the topic e.g. *'Did you know that fracking uses vast amounts of water?'* or *'Were you aware that unconventional gas extraction is harmful to health?'*

Do the cycle again. After you've done this for a week or two, chose another topic, fire off another letter, and start the process again. By the time you've done this 2 or 3 times, you'll be well on your way to finding *'the thing that you can do'*.

Your letters

When people start writing campaign letters, they tend to mash a lot of issues together. Such 'kitchen sink' letters can be hard to read. In this *READ - WRITE - TALK IT* process, keep your letters brief and focused. Stick to your topic and why it's a concern in your region. Avoid long sentences - keep them short and punchy. Edit before you send: like roses, most writing is made better by a good pruning.

The campaign stall - the ideal place to talk about it

If your group does not already have a regular stall, we strongly encourage you to start one. We need to get outside the 'bubble' of our usual social networks - and stalls can reach a broad cross-section of the community. The people we meet there will take those conversations into *their* networks. At your stall, it's especially important to collect contact details of people who want to receive email updates from your local group and Frack Free Future. It's always good to have a simple informal petition on a

stall that enables people to take some action immediately and put their name down for updates. Ask FFF for the petitions being used in WA currently if that would help.

If you'd like further information, contact info@frackfreefuture.org.au