



Read it - Write it - Talk it

An induction process to help people get started in the campaign

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 coal...these can seem a bit daunting at first. Some may feel unsure, hesitate, and drift away from your group.

Read it – Write it – Talk it is a process of induction for new group members. It breaks down information into bite-sized chunks. Because the act of writing helps organise information in our brains, it helps people 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 in fracking*, or *Coal dust and health*

Read about it, using LTG fact sheets or other sources of information

Write a letter on that topic to a newspaper. By writing it straight away, you're bedding these 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 your local group's regular stall, 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 coal dust 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 Lock the Gate*. 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 if they want them. Ask LTG for the national petitions being used currently if that would help.

Getting Started – sources of information

The following list is not intended to be comprehensive

LTG fact sheets are based on scientific evidence. Remember you're not meant to be an expert, you are a concerned community member. You have a right to have an opinion, based on the facts. The main thing is to keep it simple: chunk it down into bite-sized pieces and get started on your **READ - WRITE - TALK IT** process.

Lock The Gate website www.lockthegate.org.au

- Under **Resources** find Fact Sheets and Myth Busting
- Under **Campaigns** find useful info about different regional issues
- Under **Get Involved** find individual downloadable Tip Sheets and how to find local groups
- Under **Our Movement** find stories from the gasfields

Videos www.youtube.com/user/LTGAlliance

If you are someone who learns from watching, the [LTG YouTube channel](#) is loaded with videos. Not only will you find our main films [Fractured Country](#) (gas) and [Undermining Australia](#) (coal), but also these have been broken into chapters on different aspects such as water, health, and impacts on farming. Other useful videos are [Dr Geralyn McCarron](#) on toxic air emissions and health, and [Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith](#) on fracking chemicals.

Other sources

- [National Toxics Network](#) Look at their publications & media releases.
- The UK site [Frack Off](#) has good resources, including a page on Science and Evidence
- [The Australia Institute](#) has many useful reports on economics of mining www.tai.org.au
- [Doctors for the Environment](#): have useful community resources

Information about well integrity

- [The Sky is Pink](#) - Industry documents reveal high failure rates. Read the [annotated documents](#)
- Dr Ingraffea commenting on NSW CSG regulations in relation to [well integrity risks](#).
- Why unconventional gasfields require ever-increasing spatial intensity: '[the Red Queen Effect](#)'.

Health impacts of coal

- Climate Council - [Impacts of coal on health](#)
- University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health - [Health effects of coal use in energy generation](#)
- [Hunter leaflet](#) on coal dust and health