



Read it - Write it - Talk it

We need to change the conversation about water....one conversation at a time!

Read it – Write it – Talk it is a way to become a confident communicator. It breaks down information into bite-sized chunks. And because the act of writing helps organise information in our brains, we gain confidence. The more effective communicators we have - the closer we get to winning.

IN A NUTSHELL

Choose **one** topic, such as *system-wide water efficiency, resilient water systems or rainforests at risk*.

READ about it, using fact sheets on our website or other sources.

WRITE a letter on that topic to a newspaper, so that you bed down these facts. By doing this, you'll retain the information and become fluent talking about it. This is especially important, as most people in our region don't know there are better water options.

TALK about the issue straight away with others: e.g.

- *'I've been learning about how Sydney added a million people without any extra water use....were you aware we could do water efficiency here?'*
- *'Did you know that experts advise against new dams? They say that to drought-proof our region, new supply should be independent of rainfall, like desalination or water re-use'*
- *'Did you know that only 1% of the Big Scrub Rainforest is left?... that this dam would destroy important parts of this 1%?'*

Please volunteer on market stalls and start conversations with people about the topic e.g. 'Call radio if they are covering water issues or the dam. ABC North Coast - text to 0467 922 684.

DO IT AGAIN !

Read another topic, write a letter about that, and start the process again. By the time you've done this 2 or 3 times, you'll be a confident, effective communicator.



Polite conversation wins the day

Remember, no-one ever changed their mind in an argument. People retreat from aggression. If you're feeling a bit worked-up, it's time to walk the dog or pull some weeds :)

Your letters



When people start writing campaign letters, they tend to mash issues together. Such 'kitchen sink' letters can be hard to read. Keep your letters brief and focused - no more than 200 words. Avoid long sentences - keep them short and punchy. Edit before you send: like roses, writing is made better by pruning.

Join a market stall - build our support base

Market stalls help us win... enjoyable too! The people we meet take these conversations into *their* networks. Here we collect contact details of those who want campaign updates: “to stop the dam we need to be connected, would you like to get updates?” Our petition is one way they can join our mail list.



Sources of information

Remember you're not meant to be an expert, you are a concerned citizen. 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.

[All Options on the Table](#) Important document about resilient systems from Water Services Assoc Australia 2020. Print & mark! Esp where it says new dams are not a good investment and why. We need to convey this to others.

[We want a water system that's fit for the 21st century](#). The Dunoon Dam would be a terrible mistake.

[Serious, system-wide water efficiency or another dam?](#) Excellent summary

Website - <https://waternorthernrivers.org> (under construction)

You'll find pages on system-wide water efficiency and other options for smart water management, pages on ecology and heritage risk, and on the proposed dam at The Channon/Dunoon.

Facebook - [No Dunoon Dam Info Page](#)

Campaign posts that you can share to your timeline or FB groups. Please invite friends to 'Like' this.

Facebook group - [Forum - No Dunoon Dam](#) A group where everyone can share news

Videos - [our YouTube channel](#)

Dive into The Channon Gorge. Watch short videos on the flora in the rare warm-temperate rainforest on sandstone. And hear about the landcare project for lowland rainforest further up Rocky Creek.

Where to write your excellent, short letters

Byron Shire Echo (paper)

editor@echo.net.au

Richmond River Independent

editor@richmondriverindependent.com

Northern Rivers Times

letters@nrimes.com.au

EchonetDaily (online)

onlineeditor@echo.net.au

Northern Star (online only)

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