



Talking Points for Officials' Meetings with Ministers

For week commencing 23 March 2026

Guidance

Please write 3 - 5 key messages to help Sam Buckle and Deputy Secretaries lead on each agenda item.

These should briefly cover:

- What do we want to get out of this meeting?
- What's the sticking point for this topic, or where do we want to hold the line?
- Given that, what should leaders say to lean in and get what we need, hold the line or move us through the sticking point?
- What other significant points might come up?

These should be written by someone who could potentially talk to the item in the meeting (e.g. directors, managers or policy leads). They need to state the crux of the conversation, so writing them requires a certain amount of strategic and tactical context.

These should not:

- be full talking points or cover the technical aspects of the discussion – directors, managers and policy experts will likely be in the meeting to cover the finer points.
- repeat content from briefings.

Minister Simmonds meeting

Out of scope

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- Gigablue's technology involves placing capsules filled with minerals in the ocean to stimulate phytoplankton growth. The phytoplankton consumes carbon dioxide from the sea and sinks to the seabed, sequestering carbon. The sequestered carbon cannot count towards New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution at this time, and it likely won't be able to contribute in the short to medium term. Gigablue intend to sell any carbon removed through voluntary carbon markets.
- Gigablue has been engaging with us and the Environmental Protection Authority since February 2025. We have requested a range of information from Gigablue to assist our understanding, which has not always been forthcoming. We are still reviewing recently supplied information, but on the face of it, we consider the science is incomplete and requires further work.
- We understand that you and the Minister for Climate Change recently discussed maintaining a watching brief on mCDR. This meeting with Gigablue could be an opportunity to advise them of this approach. You could also encourage Gigablue to continue their research and engagement to ensure there is a good science, economic, cultural and social case for its technology.
- 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(b)(ii)
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- There has been media interest in Gigablue's activities. The Ministry has recently responded to OIAs and media requests from Radio New Zealand.

What is the outcome we want? Is there a point Tash needs to raise?

- The Minister can advise Gigablue that her preference is to maintain a watching brief on novel mCDR technologies.

Out of scope
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