
From: Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 19 February 2026 4:28 pm
To: Kirsty Flannagan <Kirsty.Flannagan@climateieb.govt.nz>; Becky Prebble <Becky.Prebble@mfe.govt.nz>; Jane White <Jane.White@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Sam Buckle <Sam.Buckle@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: CLASSIFICATION 25-BRF-00199 Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal

I have suggested that I meet with Matthew BR etc to get ahead of Hon Watts reading this.

Here is a CoPilot summary

Combined takeaway

9(2)(h) the **OceanCare** appendix provides the technical and environmental critique. 9(2)(h)

Longer summary

Marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) technologies are attracting increasing interest as part of global responses to climate change, but **marine geoengineering approaches—particularly ocean fertilisation—are highly controversial** 9(2)(h)

9(2)(h)

9(2)(h)

The **OceanCare appendix**, submitted to the LC/LP, provides a detailed **scientific and legal critique** of particle-based mCDR. It argues that activities designed to stimulate phytoplankton growth—regardless of whether particles subsequently sink—clearly meet the LC/LP definition of **ocean fertilisation** and therefore fall under the prohibition on commercial deployment. OceanCare highlights the **rapid commercialisation ambitions** of the operator, the **absence of robust evidence** that meaningful, durable carbon sequestration would occur, and **significant unresolved environmental risks**, including oxygen depletion, greenhouse gas release, disruption of marine ecosystems, seabed impacts, and the practical impossibility of monitoring or verifying outcomes at scale.

9(2)(h)

the **OceanCare paper underlines the scientific uncertainty and environmental hazards** of particle-based mCDR. 9(2)(h)

From: Steve Mason <Steve.Mason@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2026 3:55 PM

To: Advice <Advice@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: environment portfolio [EXTERNAL] (parliament) <environment.portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>; Emily Young [EXTERNAL] (PARLIAMENT) <Emily.Young@parliament.govt.nz>; Briefings - Watts <BriefingsWatts@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: CLASSIFICATION 25-BRF-00199 Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal

Kia ora Advice Team,

25-BRF-00199 Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal

We understand this briefing was sent to Minister Simmonds on 19 December and should have also been sent to our office the same day. Both Emily and I have checked our inboxes and can't see it coming over (apologies if it did but we can't find any trace).

Can you do a quick check and see if anything happened on your side, and if there may be any other briefings around the same time too? Just want to make sure we catch what happened and make sure no others are stuck in the system.

Ngā mihi,

Steve



Steve Mason-Pryor | Private Secretary – Climate Change

Office of Hon. Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change

Minister for Energy

Minister of Local Government

Minister of Revenue

M: 9(2)(a)

E: steve.mason@parliament.govt.nz

Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand