

From: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2026 10:50 am
To: Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** RE: Commissioning: Meeting note | Ministers Simmonds and Watts meeting | Due Thurs 5 March

Agree re: high potential vs high uncertainty and other red points 😊

Bonnie Hartfield ([she/her](#))

Advisor | Kaitohutohu
Marine Policy | Kaupapahere Moana
Natural Environment Policy | Te Rōpū Te Whakahaere Taiao me te Urutau

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao
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From: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2026 10:38 am
To: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** RE: Commissioning: Meeting note | Ministers Simmonds and Watts meeting | Due Thurs 5 March

Some thoughts in red below

From: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2026 9:47 am
To: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** RE: Commissioning: Meeting note | Ministers Simmonds and Watts meeting | Due Thurs 5 March

My in-meeting scribbles:

1 page event note: MCDR
Time: 15 minutes

Background:

- Increasing interest in mCDR activities internationally and in NZ (including media).
- 25-BRF-00199 sent to provide information to Ministers on mCDR and how this has been regulated in NZ through existing legislation.

- Officials have been working to develop understanding of the technology, how regulations currently manage and risks/opportunities for NZ.
- Precautionary approach to environmental management butting up against need for climate solutions (not the right words but you get the gist) – prefer to keep PP/PA out of this – too much detail and can evoke strong reactions. But agree with the point. Do we want to revert the high potential vs high uncertainty (effectiveness/effects) language, and zero in on enabling research to consider/address the uncertainty?

Progress:

- Officials have been considering how mCDR activities are managed as part of climate frameworks (e.g. non-forest removals framework)
- ~~Understand GigaBlue has withdrawn their activity application (not confirmed by EPA).~~ We understand GB are still wanting to undertake research in NZ's EEZ.
- Next LC/LP meeting in October will discuss marine geoengineering activities and how they are regulated under the framework.

Next steps:

- If you would like to progress work [better words out there], officials can provide advice on what a future work programme could look like [including.... Flavour of things] Provide direction to officials on advice/next steps/future work.

Sticking point: Need to reduce global carbon emissions through scaled up carbon removals vs obligations to protect marine environment from harm and take precautionary approach to marine activities [see point about PP – could also include human health element here, 9(2)(g)(i)]

**note for Matt: talking points for James P include “sticking points” which are like tradeoffs, could be worth considering including here.*

Talking points Climate:

- mCDR is being discussed in response to the scale of the climate challenge and the limits of land-based mitigation.
- At the same time, it raises environmental, legal, and reputational risks that may outweigh its benefits.
- [1/2 points from briefing on climate stuff]

Q: How do you see the precautionary approach applying to mCDR activities in the ocean? [what potential does NZ's oceans have for mCDR – chance to pitch an AMCF type assessment/further work / could have a question on how regulated (bit of a patsy based on briefing, but could invite a deeper look into RMA for Blue carbon/OAE in the CMA)]

**note for matt: stuck on question for MCC to ask, happy to use something better*

Talking points Env:

- International law points strongly towards precaution and environmental protection in the oceans.
- mCDR differs from many land-based interventions in that effects could be widespread/transboundary and may be difficult to reverse.
- [1/2 points from briefing on env stuff]

Q: Do you see mCDR as something that could inform New Zealand's climate strategy, now or in the future?

For both: What do we want officials to focus on next? [Do we need further advice on a future work programme?]

e.g. advice on an enabling research framework, engagement at international fora, looking at LC/LP amendment, more detailed info on mCDR

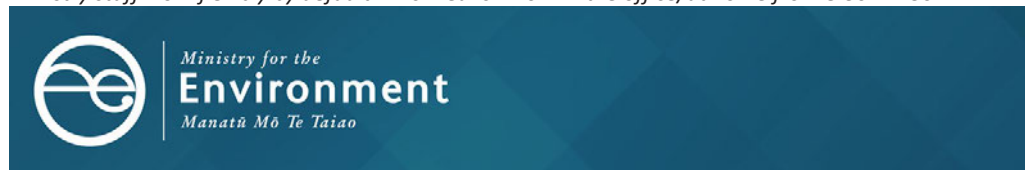
Bonnie Hartfield ([she/her](#))

Advisor | Kaitohutohu

Marine Policy | Kaupapahere Moana

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From: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2026 8:31 am
To: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** RE: Commissioning: Meeting note | Ministers Simmonds and Watts meeting | Due Thurs 5 March

Let me have a little scribble, then we can compare

From: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2026 8:29 am
To: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: **CLASSIFICATION** RE: Commissioning: Meeting note | Ministers Simmonds and Watts meeting | Due Thurs 5 March

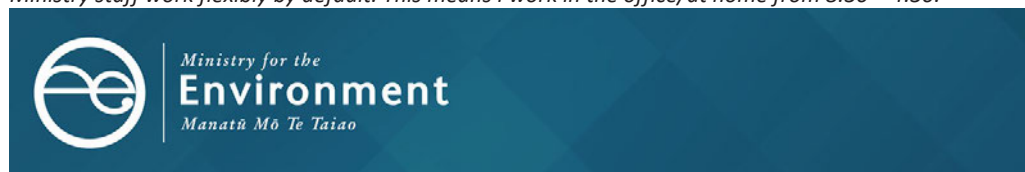
Should be an easy one – would you like me to send stuff through to you?

Bonnie Hartfield ([she/her](#))

Advisor | Kaitohutohu
Marine Policy | Kaupapahere Moana
Natural Environment Policy | Te Rōpū Te Whakahaere Taiao me te Urutau

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From: Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 5:07 pm
To: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: **CLASSIFICATION** RE: Commissioning: Meeting note | Ministers Simmonds and Watts meeting | Due Thurs 5 March

Kia ora kōrua

See below. Should be straight forward. Happy for you to agree between you as to who'd like to pen hold on our content?

Can you come back to me with high level bullets on what to cover in the meeting note 1 page, and talking points? Quick and dirty is ok so I can agree?

Kā mihi, Matthew

Matthew Barbati-Ross (he/him)

Manager | Kaiwhakahaere

Marine Policy Team | Kaupapahere Moana

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

9(2)(a) | matthew.barbati-ross@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

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Ministry for the
Environment
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From: Advice <Advice@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 3:55 pm

To: Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Annabelle Ellis <Annabelle.Ellis@mfe.govt.nz>; Susan Baas <Susan.Baas@mfe.govt.nz>; Rebecca Partridge <Rebecca.Partridge@mfe.govt.nz>

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

Subject: CLASSIFICATION RE: Commissioning: Meeting note | Ministers Simmonds and Watts meeting | Due Thurs 5 March

Kia ora koutou,

I see you were all cc'd into the below, could someone please confirm this has been picked up?

This is due **10am, Thursday 5 March**, if there are concerns about the deadline, please let us know.

Thank you,

9(2)(a)

Ministerial Services | Ngā Pūnaha Minita

Office of the Chief Executive | Te Rōpū Tumu Whakarae

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

environment.govt.nz



From: Environment Portfolio <Environment.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 11:51 am

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

Cc: Steve Mason [EXTERNAL] (Parliament) <steve.mason@parliament.govt.nz>; Emily Young [EXTERNAL] (PARLIAMENT) <Emily.Young@parliament.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Annabelle Ellis <Annabelle.Ellis@mfe.govt.nz>; Susan Baas <Susan.Baas@mfe.govt.nz>; Rebecca Partridge <Rebecca.Partridge@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: Commissioning: Meeting note | Ministers Simmonds and Watts meeting | Due Thurs 5 March

Kia ora tātou – Minister Simmonds is meeting with Minister Watts on Tuesday 10 March to discuss a range of topics that intersect the environment and climate **Out of scope** portfolios.

By 10am Thursday 5 March, please could we get a joint meeting note to both Ministers, with separate talking points attached as appendices.

Please collate input from the relevant teams on the 4 topics below (max 1 page per topic), including background (refer to any recent briefings), progress updates, next steps, etc.

If this deadline is not workable – noting there are a few moving parts to manage with this one – please let us know.

Organisation:	N/A
Attendees:	Minister Watts Minister Simmonds
Meeting purpose:	To discuss 4 topics relevant to both Ministers' portfolios: • Marine carbon dioxide removal – cc Matthew Barbati-Ross • Out of scope ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED]
Date:	10 March 2026
Time:	3.15pm – 4.00pm
Location:	Minister Watts' office
Other:	Joint meeting note with information relevant to both Ministers. Separate talking points attached for each Minister please.

Many thanks, all! We're here if any questions.

Nāku, nā
Jojo

Jojo Woodham

Private Secretary – Environment | Office of Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for the Environment | Minister for Vocational Education
Associate Minister for Social Development | MP for Invercargill