

From: Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 4 March 2026 12:42 pm
To: Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz; Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz; Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz
Subject: RE: Gigablue NZ Visit

Kia ora

I suggest we wait for feedback from Ministers Watts and Simmonds next week, before meeting further with Gigablue on regulatory design.

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

Ministry staff work flexibly by default. For me, this means I work from Te Pātaka-o-Rākaihautū/Banks Peninsula.



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



From: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 2 March 2026 10:11 am
To: Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Gigablue NZ Visit

Morena all (again),

Just wondering if we had access to these documents? I'm not sure whether there is value for Gigablue or us in meeting again for two half-days if they are unable to provide significant new information, or any of the information we requested in May.

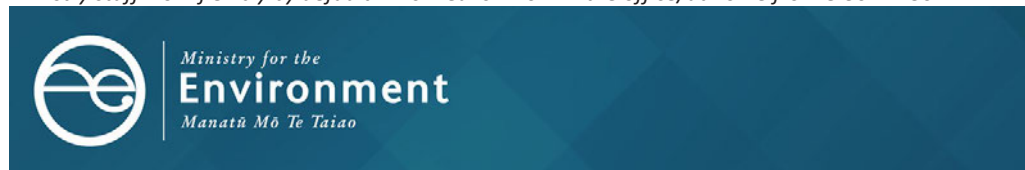
Bon

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
environment.govt.nz

Ministry staff work flexibly by default. This means I work in the office/at home from 8:30 – 4:30.



From: Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 27 February 2026 1:26 pm
To: Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Gigablue NZ Visit

Regards,

Aaron Napier

General Manager, Data and Insights Products

Strategy, Stewardship and Performance (SS&P) | Te Hunga Mārama o Te Taiao

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao
027 247 1893 | aaron.napier@mfe.govt.nz | environment.govt.nz
PA: Charlotte Duns | charlotte.duns@mfe.govt.nz

From: Sharon Naveh Ovedya 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 26 February 2026 4:44 am
To: Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>; Martin Workman <martin.workman@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Sapir Markus Alford 9(2)(a) Guy Shafran 9(2)(a)
Subject: Re: Gigablue NZ Visit

MFE CYBER SECURITY WARNING

This email originated from outside our organisation. Please take extra care when clicking on any links or opening any attachments.

Dear Aaron and Martin,

We wanted to share that we received the EPA's letter confirming that the GIGPA05 pen trial may proceed as a permitted activity (Attached). Attachment provided below

We appreciate this constructive step. At the same time, the letter underscores the importance of establishing a clear regulatory pathway for any future phases. This further highlights the value of a dedicated discussion with MfE during our March visit.

We look forward to coordinating a suitable time to meet.

Kind regards,
Sharon

On Tue, Feb 24, 2026 at 11:17 PM Sharon Naveh Ovedya 9(2)(a) wrote:

Dear Martin and Aaron,

I hope you are well.

Gigablue is currently finalising the additional documents requested by MfE, which we expect to submit within the next few days. In parallel, and in order to meet our 2026-2027 objectives, we would very much like to schedule an in-person workshop with the Ministry during our upcoming visit to New Zealand.

We are planning a regulation-focused visit within the 9-27 March window (Guy, Sapir and myself). The trip itself will be approximately 5 days, scheduled around the availability of key counterparts. We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to dedicate two half-days to a substantive working session with MfE during that period.

The primary purpose of the requested workshop is to work together toward a clear regulatory pathway and define next steps for mCDR activities in New Zealand, and specifically for Gigablue's MCFS technology.

In particular, we hope to:

- Clarify the near-term pathway (2026–2027) for small- to mid-scale research and experimental activities, including possible bridging regulatory solutions.
- Work on the longer-term regulatory framework (2028 onward) for larger-scale activities.
- Identify practical next steps, information gaps, and a structured process moving forward.

Once we are able to confirm the two half-days with MfE, we will schedule the remainder of our meetings (EPA, Ngāi Tahu, and other stakeholders) accordingly.

This visit is intended to initiate a focused and constructive regulatory process. After two years of significant investment, we are keen to reduce uncertainty and work collaboratively with the Government and relevant stakeholders toward a workable and responsible pathway.

Please let us know your availability within the 9-27 March window, and what timing would work best for your team. Sooner is better from our side.

We appreciate your continued engagement and look forward to progressing this together.

Kind regards,
Sharon

Sharon Naveh

VP Regulatory Compliance // Gigablue

--

Sharon Naveh

VP Regulatory Compliance // Gigablue

File ref: CAS103072K6B4P6

25 February 2026

Sharon Naveh Ovedya
Gigablue Limited
C/- Tonkin & Taylor Limited
1 Fanshawe Street
Auckland Central
Auckland 1010

Dear Sharon

GIGO5 Pre Activity Notice

On balance, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) considers that the trial described in the updated GIGPA05 Forms 1 and 2 (provided on 23 and 24 February 2026) may proceed as a permitted activity, provided it is undertaken strictly in accordance with the description provided and that all mitigation measures described are fully implemented and adhered to.

This view should not be construed as advice or assurance that any further or similar activities will be able to be undertaken as permitted activities.

In reaching this view, the EPA understands that:

- a) The activity is designed to answer three specified questions about the marine environment, and the data collected and findings from the trial will be shared with the wider scientific community to advance understanding of marine environmental health.
- b) The amount of the inert substrate will be limited to a total (all pens inclusive) maximum of 55kg.
- c) The activity and its effects will be contained in pens with 1mm mesh nets which will contain the material (8-10mm in diameter). The pens with the contained substrates will float with the surface currents until the end of the trial, with an under-net retaining substrates throughout the duration of the experiment. All material will be collected at the end of the experiment.
- d) The duration of the trial will be 18-20 days, and in no event will exceed 29 days (including weather and vessel availability contingencies). The area of the trial is clearly mapped out.
- e) No other trials are currently planned.
- f) The effects on the marine environment from this one activity are expected to be negligible.

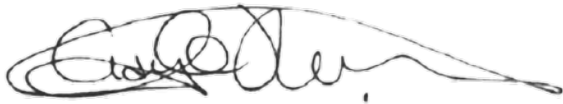
Please note that the EPA may not reach the same conclusion in respect of any future activities.

We strongly encourage you to consider applying for a marine consent for any future activities and to factor the relevant statutory timeframes into your planning processes. We also suggest

that you consider what type of marine consent would best align with any future activities and that you engage with the EPA at an early stage.

Please direct future communications relating to this activity to Lucas Wills
(Lucas.Wills@epa.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gayle Holmes', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Gayle Holmes
General Manager
Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
Environmental Protection Authority
Te Mana Rauhi Taiao