

From: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 10:26 am
To: Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz; martin.workman@mfe.govt.nz
Cc: Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz; Charlotte.Harris-Miller@mfe.govt.nz; Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz
Subject: CLASSIFICATION Chat with Hourglass Climate

Kia ora Aaron and Martin,

Just flagging something that came up in a discussion Charlotte Harris-Miller, Matt and I had with a non-forest removals eNGO that relates to our Gigablue work.

Hourglass Climate are a non-profit working on ocean alkalinity enhancement field testing to produce open-sourced, peer reviewed data on mCDR efficacy and safety. They were approached as part of the Assessment Framework for Carbon Removals work, as it is understood they'd like to undertake some small-scale research in NZ using mined materials from the South Island.

Matt and I mentioned that research on ocean alkalinity enhancement in New Zealand is currently prohibited, based on our international obligations. Hourglass Climate asked us how Gigablue are able to undertake research here 6(b)(ii) . We noted that the experiments so far were on floating and sinking of particles and that the EPA are responsible for making decisions on individual research activities, 9(2)(g)(i) .

We may need to add this into our consideration of reputational effects as the work progresses.

Ngā mihi,

Bonnie

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

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

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

