

From: Matt Adams
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 2:47 pm
To: Bonnie Hartfield
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** Outline for review: Meeting brief and officials talking points

Small changes in red – do you want to talk about TPs or just wait until we have more of an idea of the agenda?

From: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 2:15 pm
To: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: **CLASSIFICATION** Outline for review: Meeting brief and officials talking points

We did not get to talking points for Minister

Officials talking points:

Point for CE (Strategic):

- Meeting with Gigablue is an opportunity to clarify the Minister's position re: prioritisation of mCDR with officials and Gigablue.

Talking points for Dep Sec:

- Last week, you/MCC have advised that there is limited appetite for a "big push" on mCDR.
- Officials from MfE have met with Gigablue more than 10 times since February 2025 to discuss their technology. Officials from EPA have also met with Gigablue.
- Since February, we have had questions around the efficacy, safety, international obligations, and social licence for this activity. **Information has been difficult to obtain.** Responses to requests for information have not been timely, accurate or complete. ~~Information has been difficult to obtain and often conflicts previous information given.~~
- We are not satisfied that our questions have been resolved.
- Gigablue will want **you to make** legislative changes to enable their activity on a commercial scale [**do we also raise the research angle or is this not really an issue?**]. This would carry risks to NZ's international obligations and marine environment, require prioritisation of our work programme, and would require significantly more information than is available at present.

Minister meeting notes: note still waiting for indication of attendees and agenda from GB, so prone to change

Meeting brief:

- Introduction – refer to AM, prioritisation by Ministers
- Issues that may be raised (to be confirmed once agenda provided) – work in NZ so far, future plans for NZ, desire for legislative change
- Risks – international reputation, science evidence, information gaps (environmental, social, cultural, economic), limited benefit to NZ
- Minister POV – not a priority right now, further work needed, NZ to follow international partners.

Talking points:

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

Advisor | Kaitohutohu
Marine Policy | Kaupapahere Moana