

From: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 2:53 pm
To: Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz; Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz
Subject: FW: **CLASSIFICATION** Outline for review: Meeting brief and officials talking points

Kia ora Matthew,

Please find below our talking points for officials, alongside an outline of the minister's meeting brief. I am just about to set the latter up in Te Pokapū.

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.
- We are not satisfied that our questions have been resolved.
- Gigablue will want you to make legislative changes to enable their activity – both research and on a commercial scale. 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:

- *We will draft these once we have an agenda*

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