

From: environment portfolio [EXTERNAL] (parliament) <environment.portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2026 5:06 pm
To: Aaron Napier; Advice
Cc: Matt Adams; Matthew Barbati-Ross
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** 26-BRF-00671 Meeting Note - Meeting with Gigablue
Attachments: 26-BRF-00671 Meeting with Gigablue on 25 March 2026 [clean].pdf; 26-BRF-00671 Meeting with Gigablue on 25 March 2026 [clean].docx

Attachment provided as Document 1

Thanks for confirming Aaron, clean copy of the note attached for your reference (with updated meeting time). See you tomorrow, you're welcome to come 10 mins early in case there's an opportunity to have a pre-brief with the Minister.

Many thanks again all for your work on this!

Nā
Jojo

From: Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2026 4:50 pm
To: Environment Portfolio <Environment.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>; Advice <Advice@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** 26-BRF-00671 Meeting Note - Meeting with Gigablue

Hi Jojo,

This looks fine to me thanks for digging in on this one with the EPA 😊

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: Environment Portfolio <Environment.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2026 4:29 pm
To: Advice <Advice@mfe.govt.nz>; Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** 26-BRF-00671 Meeting Note - Meeting with Gigablue

Hi team, Aaron – following our conversation and updates from the EPA, I've made a handful of edits to the meeting note (in the essence of time!).

Can you please have a quick review of the attached now and let me know if you have any immediate allergic reactions?

Notably, I've included a talking point on the status of Gigablue's research activity permitted status:
I understand you modified your proposed research activity earlier this year, which was assessed and considered to fall within the EEZ Regulations, provided it is undertaken strictly in accordance with the description provided and that all mitigation measures are fully implemented and adhered to.

This, and the other text I've added to the body of the meeting note has come from the EPA's update below (this was provided to RNZ last week in response to a media query):

- The Environmental Protection Authority has been in ongoing discussions with Gigablue about its technology and proposed activities.
- Our role includes receiving marine consent applications, receiving notices of permitted activities, and monitoring compliance under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 (EEZ Act) and associated regulations.
- Where an activity is a permitted activity under Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects – Permitted Activities) Regulations 2013 (EEZ Regulations) the EPA does not issue consent or approval and the activity may proceed as long as the notification requirements are met.
- In September 2025 the company was notified that, based on the information provided, their proposed activities were not permitted under the EEZ Regulations.
- Gigablue submitted an updated pre-activity notice in January 2026 for a significantly modified activity.
- The modified activity was assessed and considered to fall within the EEZ Regulations, provided it is undertaken strictly in accordance with the description provided and that all mitigation measures are fully implemented and adhered to.

Thanks all – let me know asap if you're ok with my proposed additions.

Nā
Jojo

From: Environment Portfolio
Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2026 1:54 pm
To: 'Advice' <Advice@mfe.govt.nz>; 'Aaron Napier' <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: 'Matt Adams' <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; 'Matthew Barbati-Ross' <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** 26-BRF-00671 Meeting Note - Meeting with Gigablue

Addition in orange

From: Environment Portfolio
Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2026 1:51 pm
To: Advice <Advice@mfe.govt.nz>; Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** 26-BRF-00671 Meeting Note - Meeting with Gigablue

Received, thanks very much team for the work you put into this.

Action: Gigablue have sent the attached briefing across, please review and let me know if we need to make any quick additions to the meeting note (e.g. could we add a bit more detail about the EPA's recent assessment for the Minister to have a bit more information to hand? I am seeking an update from the EPA on this, but you folks may be across this already).

Question: Are there any specific parts of the briefing that MfE does not want shared with Minister Patterson?
**apart from the talking points?*

Thanks heaps – Aaron, please give me a call when you can 😊

Nā



Office of Hon Penny Simmonds

Environment Portfolio

Minister for the Environment | Minister for Vocational Education
Associate Minister for Social Development | MP for Invercargill

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

Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2026 12:38 pm

To: Briefings - Simmonds <BriefingsSimmonds@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Advice <Advice@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: **CLASSIFICATION** 26-BRF-00671 Meeting Note - Meeting with Gigablue

Kia ora koutou,

Please find attached 26-BRF-00671 Meeting Note - Meeting with Gigablue.

Further details can be found below:

SME suggests sending **parts** of this note to Minister Patterson's office (Regional Development) as well as attached 25-BRF-00199 Marina Carbon Dioxide Removals.

Ngā mihi,

Noni Trihardini Kelly ([she/her](#))

Ministerial Services Coordinator | Kairuruku

Ministerial Services | Ngā Pūnaha Minita

Office of the Chief Executive | Te Rōpū Tumu Whakarae

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