

From: Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 10 April 2026 3:11 pm
To: Becky.Prebble@mfe.govt.nz
Subject: FYI no action: MCDR/Gigablue commissioning: **CLASSIFICATION** FW: Round Back on CPMG Discussion
Attachments: commissioning-worksheet-for-policy-papers-gigablue-marine removals.pdf

From: Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2026 3:10 PM
To: Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: MCDR/Gigablue commissioning: **CLASSIFICATION** FW: Round Back on CPMG Discussion

Hi Aaron,
Noting we might have to sequence, do you agree that we should get on with commissioning the brief?

Here is a draft CADDKEY - value your views. (I am in favour of this word-limited commissioning as it doesn't allow waffle / lack of focus)

If you're ok, I'm happy to broker with the marine team, which I somewhat know, or equally I may need to borrow you one (last) time?

Steve.

Old brief for reference:  [01 25-BRF-00199 Marine Carbon Dioxide Removals.pdf](#)

From: Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2026 10:19 AM
To: Becky Prebble <Becky.Prebble@mfe.govt.nz>; Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: **CLASSIFICATION** FW: Round Back on CPMG Discussion

Hey Team,

Just sharing this for context, with Minister's changing portfolios we need to take a bit of time on this to get it right for Minister Grigg, it won't be a priority out of the gate with Annual Review coming up and a wider portfolio with budget responsibilities to get across. Nicholas and Steve were open to re-exploring approach and I have some thoughts about how to navigate this and connect it more strongly into Watts portfolio area.

Regards,

Aaron Napier
General Manager, Data and Insights Products
Strategy, Stewardship and Performance (SS&P) | Te Hunga Mārama o Te Taiao

Context

Where did this request come from?

☒ Minister

☐ Manager

☐ Senior leadership

☐ Other:

Why this task? Why now?

Write a briefing for multiple Ministers about the regulatory barriers faced by Gigablue, and identify a practical pathway for Ministers to assess this and other such proposals. At the March CPMG meeting, Ministers (Simmonds*, Patterson and Watts) requested this information. *Note Minister Grigg has now assumed the Environment portfolio, replacing Minister Simmonds.

What’s the big picture? What’s the history of this issue? What are the linkages to other work?

Much of the big picture is covered in BRF-0199 from December 2025. In summary,

- Ministers are interested in economic development, including regional development.
- Gigablue claims to able economic and large-scale marine carbon dioxide removals (MCDR).
- However, Gigablue does not appear to have a legal basis for its activities, nor has it proven its science.

Aim

What’s the purpose and scope of this task? What do you want the decision maker to do or decide?

Outline what Gigablue is asking for, and the barriers the company is facing.
Provide options for a pathway for Ministers, which might include status quo (EPA process might actually be doing its job) and or applying Removals Framework (either in name or as a framework). The pathway should allow Ministers to have a way of thinking about this work. Provi

Resources

What are the key questions that need to be answered? What expertise do you need?
What information and evidence is relevant? Do you need input from other teams or agencies?

Questions: (See accompanying email with commissioning from offices).What outcome do we want from this brief? What do Ministers want? What is Gigablue asking for? What barriers are they facing? What do we think about the barriers? What is the interest/role of Government? What is a practical way for Ministers to think about this? What is the first step, and can it be done?

Deliverable

☐ Cabinet paper

☒ Briefing (advice)

☐ Meeting brief

☐ Memo

☐ Slides

☐ Aide memoire

☐ A3

☐ Other:

Deadline

When does it need to be completed? First draft: Final for approval:

What’s the sign-off process? (tick all that apply)

☒ Manager

☒ General manager/director

☒ Deputy secretary

What level of quality assurance is required?

Proofreader

Peer reviewer

Tips for commissioning

Are you ready to commission?

- Are you clear enough about the details, scope, and outcomes to begin formal commissioning?
- Are you sure what impact you want to achieve and the best form of advice for doing so?
- Who is going to be managing the task, deliverable, or project, and are they clear on their responsibilities?
- Is the detail of your planned commission proportionate to the task and person?
- When and how will any changes to the commission be communicated and recorded?

For the new or developing

- Set tasks and be detailed
- Assign support / coach / expert
- Coach them through the steps
- Meet to discuss frequently

For the somewhat experienced

- Empower and support
- Check in regularly, clarify and confirm progress and direction
- Recommend as needed

For the expert

- Set parameters
- Respond to questions on request

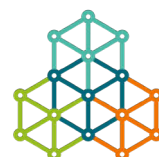
Are you ready to be commissioned?

- Have you prepared your initial thinking and ideas about the output?
 - Key messages?
 - Purpose of documents?
 - Audience?
- Are you clear about what makes a good commission for you? Have you prepared questions that will get you the answers you need?
- What support and information do you think you need in this situation?
- Commissioning can be an ongoing process to decide how it will be updated and tracked over the course of the work.

The [Commissioning template for policy products](#) was released in March 2024 by the Policy Project.
policy.project@dpmc.govt.nz | dpmc.govt.nz/policy-project



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