

From: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 9:24 am
To: Andrew.Townend@mfat.govt.nz
Subject: **CLASSIFICATION** FW: Draft framework for AM for Ministers **CLASSIFICATION**

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
environment.govt.nz

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



From: Bonnie Hartfield
Sent: Tuesday, 21 April 2026 9:23 am
To: 'BRIGHTON, Claire (LGL)' <Claire.Brighton@mfat.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Draft framework for AM for Ministers **CLASSIFICATION**

Morena Claire,

Just letting you know we're getting cracking – just waiting on our end for GMs to confirm sign out.

Re: point about other countries – we know the Canadian Senate has recently released reports suggesting development of an mCDR strategy, and the US has one in place (and there is a bill somewhere in the American ether for govt funding of this). We understand the Australians including research on mCDR in their sea dumping reforms, but this doesn't come into force until the LC/LP amendment does.

Talk soon,

Bonnie

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

Advisor | Kaitohutohu
Marine Policy | Kaupapahere Moana
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From: BRIGHTON, Claire (LGL) <Claire.Brighton@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 20 April 2026 4:30 pm

To: Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>; Jillian Dempster [EXTERNAL] (MFAT) <jillian.dempster@mfat.govt.nz>; Anna Broadhurst [EXTERNAL] (MFAT) <Anna.Broadhurst@mfat.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: MCGEORGE, Emily (LGL) <Emily.McGeorge@mfat.govt.nz>; AL-JEBOURI, Tabby (LGL) <Tabby.Al-Jebouri@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: Draft framework for AM for Ministers **CLASSIFICATION**

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Kia ora team

Thanks again for the chat on Thursday. **Attached** is a framework for a short aide memoire for relevant ministers.

We have left most of the substantive content for you to populate, but hopefully having some framing on paper is helpful.

Keen for your additions / changes and your thoughts on whether this structure works overall.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Claire Brighton (she/her)

Manager

International Environment and Resources Law

T 9(2)(a) **E** claire.brighton@mfat.govt.nz

CLASSIFICATION

From: Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 9:02 am

To: BRIGHTON, Claire (LGL) <Claire.Brighton@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: James Coombes <James.Coombes@mfe.govt.nz>; MCGEORGE, Emily (LGL) <Emily.McGeorge@mfat.govt.nz>; AL-JEBOURI, Tabby (LGL) <Tabby.Al-Jebouri@mfat.govt.nz>; DEMPSTER, Jillian (CAE) <Jillian.Dempster@mfat.govt.nz>; GLASSEY, Nathan (CAE) <Nathan.Glassey@mfat.govt.nz>; BROADHURST, Anna (CAE) <Anna.Broadhurst@mfat.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>; REAICH, Carl (LGL) <Carl.Reaich@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: **CLASSIFICATION** RE: Marine carbon sequestration and our NDC **CLASSIFICATION**

Hi Claire,

Joint sounds good, and the maritime team is the locus here. Happy to explore if this is joint advice.

Are you happy to meet with NZCapital as just MFAT, or is there value in an MfE official being there if available.

Steve

From: BRIGHTON, Claire (LGL) <Claire.Brighton@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 9:51 PM

To: Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: James Coombes <James.Coombes@mfe.govt.nz>; MCGEORGE, Emily (LGL) <Emily.McGeorge@mfat.govt.nz>; AL-JEBOURI, Tabby (LGL) <Tabby.Al-Jebouri@mfat.govt.nz>; Jillian Dempster [EXTERNAL] (MFAT) <jillian.dempster@mfat.govt.nz>; GLASSEY, Nathan (CAE) <Nathan.Glassey@mfat.govt.nz>; Anna Broadhurst [EXTERNAL] (MFAT) <Anna.Broadhurst@mfat.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>; REAICH, Carl (LGL) <Carl.Reaich@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** RE: Marine carbon sequestration and our NDC **CLASSIFICATION**

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Kia ora Stephen

This is very timely as we have just been discussing how to engage Ministers on these issues.

MFAT doesn't have anything in the pipeline, but we have been working with your colleagues in the maritime team **9(2)(h)** (Matt and Bonnie, who I have copied in) – they were also asked to prepare advice following the same climate ministerial meeting (though I understand that advice has been postponed briefly, following the Cabinet reshuffle).

9(2)(h)

I don't think Ministers have received any advice at this stage, so there could be real benefit in working on something joint to put up to all interested Ministers. When are you planning to put your advice up?

To provide an update since my email below – OMFA was contacted by NZCapital, a government relations group currently working with Gigablue, who requested a meeting with MFAT to discuss legal issues relating to Gigablue's activities (we will be largely in listening mode). That meeting is going ahead tomorrow afternoon.

Very happy to chat / meet if that is easier.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Claire Brighton (she/her)

Manager

International Environment and Resources Law

T 9(2)(a) E claire.brighton@mfat.govt.nz

CLASSIFICATION

From: Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 13 April 2026 3:00 pm

To: BRIGHTON, Claire (LGL) <Claire.Brighton@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: James Coombes <James.Coombes@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: Fw: CLASSIFICATION RE: Marine carbon sequestration and our NDC CLASSIFICATION

Hi Claire,

I work with James C in the Climate group at MfE. At a recent Climate Priorities Ministerial Group in March, a couple of Ministers, including Hon Patterson, expressed interest in Gigablue.

I am commissioning a short brief/aide memoire covering Gigablue, the ask of government, and the barriers. 9(2)(h).

Are you planning any advice - eg to MFA? I'm happy to coordinate on ours as if you think that's needed.

Steve.

Stephen Goodman (he/him)

*General Manager Climate Change Mitigation | Pou Whakahaere
Whakangāwari Huringa Āhuarangi*

Climate Change Mitigation | Whakangāwari Huringa Āhuarangi

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021 238 5678 | stephen.goodman@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz



From: James Coombes <James.Coombes@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 1:54 PM

To: Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: CLASSIFICATION RE: Marine carbon sequestration and our NDC CLASSIFICATION

Re Gigablue and ocean CDR.

James Coombes (he/him)

Manager | Kaiwhakahaere

International Climate

Ministry for the Environment – Manatū Mō Te Taiao

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8 Willis Street, Wellington 6143

From: Andrea Brandon <Andrea.Brandon1@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 10 April 2026 1:29 pm

To: Jacqui Ruesga <Jacqui.Ruesga@mfe.govt.nz>; James Coombes <James.Coombes@mfe.govt.nz>; BRIGHTON, Claire (LGL) <Claire.Brighton@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: MCGEORGE, Emily (LGL) <Emily.McGeorge@mfat.govt.nz>; AL-JEBOURI, Tabby (LGL) <Tabby.AL-Jebouri@mfat.govt.nz>; Jillian Dempster [EXTERNAL] (MFAT) <jillian.dempster@mfat.govt.nz>; Anna Broadhurst [EXTERNAL] (MFAT) <Anna.Broadhurst@mfat.govt.nz>; GLASSEY, Nathan (CAE) <Nathan.Glassey@mfat.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: CLASSIFICATION RE: Marine carbon sequestration and our NDC CLASSIFICATION

Kia ora Claire,

I've attached a note I prepared last year on this topic.

In summary - there is **no clear or easy pathway** to including marine CDR in NZ's NDCs **at present**. Significant scientific, methodological, and political barriers remain. Note this excludes coastal wetlands which can be included and for which there is IPCC methodological guidance.

Answers to your specific questions

NZ's current NDC accounting does not include *emissions* from our EEZ (and therefore cannot include reductions unless we expand our emissions counting too), and that this is consistent with other State's practice under Paris?

Correct – NZ's current NDC accounting is based on NZ's GHG Inventory which does not extend beyond the coastal marine area boundary.

I know of no other State accounting for marine CDR beyond the coastal marine area towards their NDCs – some are accounting for coastal blue carbon towards their NDCs eg Japan

We also wanted to check whether anyone is tracking the emissions from within our EEZ?

We report emissions from international shipping in the GHG Inventory (following IPCC methods) but they are not included in the emissions totals (which is in line with Paris Agreement and UNFCCC reporting requirements for GHGs) and currently we *do not account* for them towards our NDC.

I know of no State or Paris Agreement Party tracking emissions beyond the coastal marine area. As you can probably imagine this would be extremely difficult to monitor and verify in practice.

Ngā mihi,

Andrea

Dr Andrea Brandon (she/her)

*Principal Science Advisor | Kaipūtaiao Mātua
Data & Insights | Strategy, Stewardship & Performance*

From: Jacqui Ruesga <Jacqui.Ruesga@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, April 10, 2026 12:43 PM

To: James Coombes <James.Coombes@mfe.govt.nz>; BRIGHTON, Claire (LGL) <Claire.Brighton@mfat.govt.nz>; Andrea Brandon <Andrea.Brandon1@mfe.govt.nz>

Cc: MCGEORGE, Emily (LGL) <Emily.McGeorge@mfat.govt.nz>; AL-JEBOURI, Tabby (LGL) <Tabby.AL-Jebouri@mfat.govt.nz>; Jillian Dempster [EXTERNAL] (MFAT) <jillian.dempster@mfat.govt.nz>; Anna Broadhurst [EXTERNAL] (MFAT) <Anna.Broadhurst@mfat.govt.nz>; GLASSEY, Nathan (CAE) <Nathan.Glassey@mfat.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: CLASSIFICATION RE: Marine carbon sequestration and our NDC CLASSIFICATION

Hi Claire,

The simple answer to your question (which I believe we have communicated to Gigablue on several occasions), is that you are correct, we do not account for emissions in our EEZ in our NDC, therefore no activity in the EEZ contributes or detracts from the NDC.

It's also my understanding that no country accounts for these emissions because the UNFCCC rules and the IPCC GHG inventory guidelines only capture emissions within their territories. @Andrea Brandon is the true accounting expert so will defer to her, but I believe EEZ-wide emissions accounting has no standing in UNFCCC reporting, NDCs, or Paris Agreement compliance.

Ngā mihi,

Jacqui Ruesga (she/her)

Principal Advisor | Kaitohutohu Mātāmua

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From: James Coombes <James.Coombes@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2026 11:40
To: BRIGHTON, Claire (LGL) <Claire.Brighton@mfat.govt.nz>; Andrea Brandon <Andrea.Brandon1@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: MCGEORGE, Emily (LGL) <Emily.McGeorge@mfat.govt.nz>; AL-JEBOURI, Tabby (LGL) <Tabby.Al-Jebouri@mfat.govt.nz>; Jillian Dempster [EXTERNAL] (MFAT) <jillian.dempster@mfat.govt.nz>; Jacqui Ruesga <Jacqui.Ruesga@mfe.govt.nz>; Anna Broadhurst [EXTERNAL] (MFAT) <Anna.Broadhurst@mfat.govt.nz>; GLASSEY, Nathan (CAE) <Nathan.Glassey@mfat.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: CLASSIFICATION RE: Marine carbon sequestration and our NDC CLASSIFICATION

Kia ora Claire,

Apologies for the radio silence – thanks for proactively reaching out on this.

I'll get Jacqui to come back to you today on this. FYI - [@Andrea Brandon](#) too.

Ngā mihi,

James.

James Coombes (he/him)

Manager | Kaiwhakahaere

International Climate

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From: BRIGHTON, Claire (LGL) <Claire.Brighton@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 2 April 2026 11:28 am
To: James Coombes <James.Coombes@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: MCGEORGE, Emily (LGL) <Emily.McGeorge@mfat.govt.nz>; AL-JEBOURI, Tabby (LGL) <Tabby.AL-Jebouri@mfat.govt.nz>; Jillian Dempster [EXTERNAL] (MFAT) <jillian.dempster@mfat.govt.nz>; Jacqui Ruesga <Jacqui.Ruesga@mfe.govt.nz>; Anna Broadhurst [EXTERNAL] (MFAT) <Anna.Broadhurst@mfat.govt.nz>; GLASSEY, Nathan (CAE) <Nathan.Glassey@mfat.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Marine carbon sequestration and our NDC **CLASSIFICATION**

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Kia ora James

We are doing quite a bit of work on marine carbon capture – with a lot of media attention at present on a company called [Gigablue](#).

One of the claims that keeps popping up is that this could solve NZ's NDC 'gap'. Putting aside the scientific questions about the validity of those claims, we wanted to check with you whether we are correct in understanding that NZ's current NDC accounting does not include *emissions* from our EEZ (and therefore cannot include reductions unless we expand our emissions counting too), and that this is consistent with other State's practice under Paris?

We also wanted to check whether anyone is tracking the emissions from within our EEZ?

9(2)(h)

Very happy to chat if that is easier.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Claire Brighton (she/her)

Manager

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