

From: Katie Mattera <Katie.Mattera@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 3:16 pm
To: Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz; Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz; Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz; Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz
Cc: Jo.Gascoigne@mfe.govt.nz
Subject: RE: CLASSIFICATION FW: Draft framework for AM for Ministers CLASSIFICATION

Thanks all – I’m happy to lean in on this with Bonnie and Matt holding the pen.

Matthew, regarding your final point, I’m not sure whether I don’t understand the question or if our position hasn’t been made clearly enough the skeleton but we would not be prioritising or recommending further work on GB; 9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 2:41 pm
To: Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>; Katie Mattera <Katie.Mattera@mfe.govt.nz>
Cc: Jo Gascoigne <Jo.Gascoigne@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: CLASSIFICATION FW: Draft framework for AM for Ministers CLASSIFICATION

Kia ora Stephen

Hope you had a good weekend.

I’m keen to loop Jo G into this too please as the responsible GM for marine policy.

Matt and Bonnie have a great understanding of the current situation with Gigablue and are well placed to progress this aide mem.

I’m happy to signout as manager for GM signout. Who is confirming the Climate policy position please as to whether prioritising further work stacks up?

Kā mihi, Matthew

Matthew Barbati-Ross (he/him)

Manager | Kaiwhakahaere

Marine Policy Team | Kaupapahere Moana

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao

9(2)(a) | matthew.barbati-ross@mfe.govt.nz | mfe.govt.nz

Ministry staff work flexibly by default. For me, this means I work from Te Pātaka-o-Rākaihautū/Banks Peninsula.



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



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

Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 1:37 pm

To: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Katie Mattera <Katie.Mattera@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: CLASSIFICATION FW: Draft framework for AM for Ministers CLASSIFICATION

Hi all,

The elephant in the room here is who is the sign off. I am happy to be if that suit all parties. With this in mind

- I am happy with that skeleton.
- Writer is Bonnie and Matt as you are so credible in this space.
- Joint Briefing? Ideally yes. We can invite MFAT agreement?
- Manager review. If Meredith can review, that's great, for nuance, but assume it is your manager sign off?
- When? I actually prefer sooner. Next couple of weeks.

Above all thanks for this thinking. Really appreciate working across on this one.

Steve.

From: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 12:03 PM

To: Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>; Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Katie Mattera <Katie.Mattera@mfe.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: CLASSIFICATION FW: Draft framework for AM for Ministers CLASSIFICATION

Hi all,

I hope you had a nice long weekend.

I am just circling back on a draft narrative skeleton for this GB advice. Katie, Bonnie, and I have worked on  [this](#) and we would appreciate your initial thoughts before pen gets put to paper on the brief.

A couple of questions we have are:

- Who is to hold the pen on this briefing/who is signing it out? The skeleton identifies key sections for each team, but probably best for one writer to ensure consistency in writing style.
- Will this be joint between MFAT and us? I hope to give them a progress report shortly, as they provided their initial skeleton a week or so ago
- Stephen, we have been contacting you directly on this, are you happy with this for now, or should we be working also through Meredith?
- When should we look to put this up to Ministers?

Cheers,

Matt

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

Sent: Wednesday, 22 April 2026 9:54 am

To: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>; Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Katie Mattera <Katie.Mattera@mfe.govt.nz>

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

Thanks both. I'm fully encouraging (and in fact needing you) to own that narrative and flow. Mine was illustrative and back you to have something compelling.

From: Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 9:46 AM

To: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>; Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>; Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Katie Mattera <Katie.Mattera@mfe.govt.nz>

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

Morning all,

Stephen, responding to your query about MFATs skeleton for a short initial piece of advice. I think the content is valid, but I don't think it quite delivers on the 'tone' you had signalled in our meeting. When we discussed this, they were keen to address the mistaken NDC narrative in support of activities like GBs. I think there is value in addressing this in our advice.

MFATs skeleton also establishes a government position on GB activities. I also think this is important but does not need to be our lead out message to Ministers. I think your skeleton provides for this advice to be provided.

Bonnie and I had done some thinking on an appropriate skeleton/key messages. I will look to merge all three skeletons then circle back.

Cheers,

Matt

From: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 April 2026 9:08 am
To: Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>; Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; Katie Mattera <Katie.Mattera@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: **CLASSIFICATION** FW: Draft framework for AM for Ministers **CLASSIFICATION**

Kia ora Stephen,

Awesome – thanks! Will sign out for this sit with you or Aaron?

I understand the MFAT team were focused on brevity, as their Minister is quite Churchillian in that respect. There are a few technical errors in their intro (eg 'phytoplankton absorb carbon from the atmosphere), but otherwise I thought it aligned with what we had discussed. I think it would be a good starter for a more comprehensive briefing – but happy to go with whatever you would prefer!

Bon

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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From: Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 April 2026 9:05 am
To: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>; Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>; Katie Mattera <Katie.Mattera@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: **CLASSIFICATION** FW: Draft framework for AM for Ministers **CLASSIFICATION**

Hi Bonnie, firstly, the answer to your question is that Katie Mattera is the climate poc.

I was as always really impressed with how "on it" you and Matt are about Gigablue. I wondered what you thought of the tone of MFAT's skeleton. I wasn't sure it would hit these Ministers very well. Ministers are potentially thinking of the possible economic benefits here as much as climate. One critical input/blind spot for me is the regulatory positions of Aus and Canada. They seem really important as Ministers like harmonisation.

Another option is a framing could be more along the lines of Gigablue's barriers (here is an illustrative narrative, not perfect but to give you the idea)

1. You asked for...
 2. Gigablue does xyz.
 3. Where this fits is that the Government is interested in developing markets for climate-friendly technology, and investment in nature-based solutions. Examples include a focus on methane-inhibiting technology for agriculture, and bolstering the VNCMs to enable investment in activities such as native afforestation and increased biodiversity In general, these markets allow nature-based projects and companies to sell environmental benefits based on verifiable activities that meet international standards. These international standards are based on proven science, which are often the result of long-term internationally endorsed science research.
 4. Gigablue is operating in a zone where it is both trying to prove its technology readiness ahead of international consensus, and accelerate aggressively into markets.
 5. 9(2)(h)
- [REDACTED]
6. There would be environmental, economic and reputational considerations, especially if the company progressed with its stated timelines:
 - a. Operating at scale would trigger significant considerations for the Government, even if the company were seeking to sell credits on voluntary international markets. They include:
 - i. Level of evidence of impact, monitoring and measuring
 - ii. Potential environmental risks and trade-offs (Shane Jones fisheries angle)
 - iii. Reputational risks
 - iv. Where economic benefits accrued
 - v. Treaty considerations.
 7. Removals framework is a way of Ministers making sense of variety of ideas.
 - a. Cabinet recently agreed...
 - b. A starting point in the framework is proof of science.
 - c. See appendix (2x tables of evidence and decision considerations)

8. 9(2)(h)

5

9. In terms of roles for Government, the pathway to trials appears open for proven technologies, and Gigablue, as in other jurisdictions, appears to have work to do there.
10. We suggest that Ministers direct GB toward the investment fwk and MFAT intl legal requirements. May likely to demand more of their science in first instance.
11. Within existing resources, we can keep in touch with Aus and Canada and ensure regulatory harmonisation - and keep you informed.

Just a skeleton as I was trying to find a way in for Ministers.

Steve.

From: Bonnie Hartfield <Bonnie.Hartfield@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 8:28 AM
To: Stephen Goodman <Stephen.Goodman@mfe.govt.nz>; Aaron Napier <Aaron.Napier@mfe.govt.nz>; Matthew Barbati-Ross <Matthew.Barbati-Ross@mfe.govt.nz>; Matt Adams <Matt.Adams@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: **CLASSIFICATION** FW: Draft framework for AM for Ministers **CLASSIFICATION**

Morena koutou,

MFAT have sent over the structure for the AM discussed with them – could we please confirm who will add content from the climate side and sign out process?

Ngā mihi,

Bonnie

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

Advisor | Kaitohutohu
Marine Policy | Kaupapahere Moana
Natural Environment Policy | Te Rōpū Te Whakahaere Taiao me te Urutau

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



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

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