



# Investment Priorities Statement 2024



Building Research Levy

# Investing in the future of Aotearoa New Zealand's building system

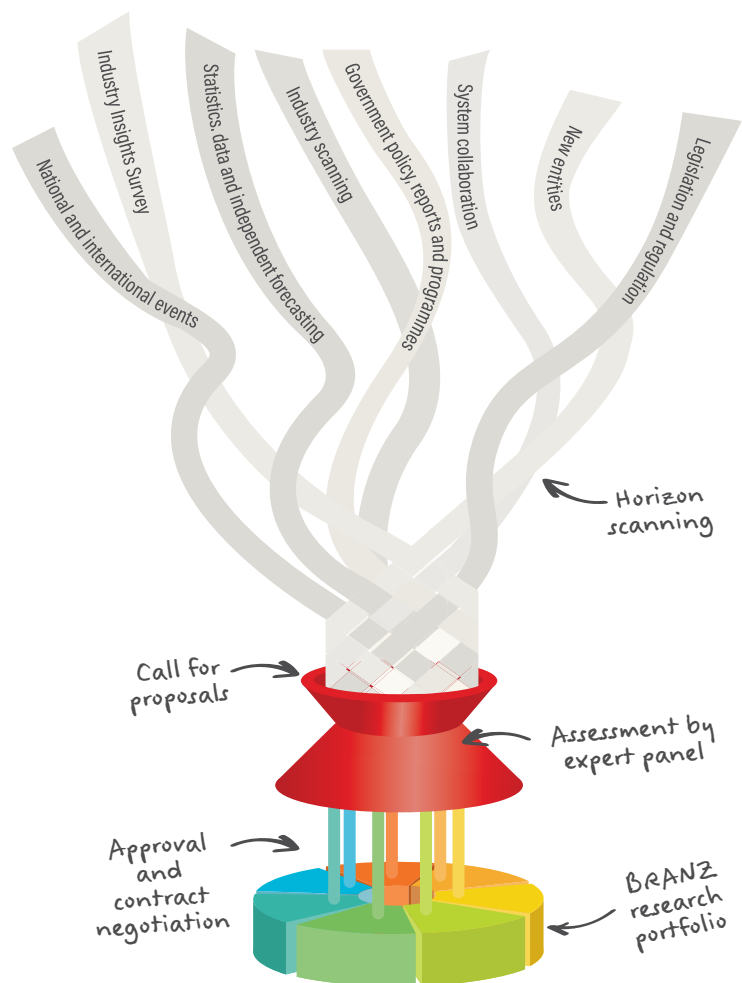
We invest the Building Research Levy (the Levy) to make a significant positive impact on the building system. This Investment Priorities Statement is informed by multiple strands of systems scanning activities and provides guidance on how the Levy will be allocated in 2024/25 for projects starting in 2025/26.

This includes projects carried out by:

- BRANZ Ltd.
- Research organisations across Aotearoa New Zealand
- Existing scholarships supported by BRANZ.

This year's Investment Priorities Statement (the Statement) is the single guidance document for BRANZ Inc's investment in all research.

Through this approach, we aim to deliver solutions for critical systems issues with greater collaboration and alignment across all research to make a clear impact. Our operating model of parallel investment cycles and investment values will remain the same.



## Proposals must align with investment signals from page 4 and meet the following investment criteria detailed in page 5:

- **A clear need for proposed research:** Demonstrate how the proposed research responds to a critical issue in the building sector and generate value to Aotearoa New Zealand.
- **Research excellence:** The proposal should demonstrate that research is well- designed, well-planned, appropriately resourced and the expected impact, communication and peer-review approaches are clearly defined.
- **Ability to deliver:** Demonstrate the ability of the team to deliver the right balance of capabilities, capacity, and facilities.
- **Collaboration and partnerships:** Demonstrate stakeholder support, collaboration, and partnerships and their role in the project
- **A defined impact:** Clear pathways to achieve research impact and measures of success.

# How we invest

Our investment aims to deliver transformational impact on the built environment through **excellent research, strong collaboration, and a clear pathway to impact.**

Through investment of the Levy BRANZ Inc. commissions research and knowledge sharing activities that drive transformation across the building and construction system.

BRANZ Inc. invests in:

- projects carried out by BRANZ Ltd, the wholly owned subsidiary of BRANZ Inc., as ongoing re-investment through the annual Levy Allocation Advisory Group round – with the next tranche of projects to begin in the 2025/26 financial year.
- Research carried out by other research organisation from across Aotearoa New Zealand through an annual investment round (previously known as the Prospectus Round) – with the next tranche of external research projects to begin in the 2025/26 financial year.
- BRANZ Inc. is also open to receiving Out of Cycle proposals that respond to critical and urgent industry needs at any time. Criteria for Out of Cycle proposals are set out in page 5 of this document.

Each year, the level of investment available for research and knowledge sharing is set by the BRANZ Inc. Board in keeping with its Long-Term Levy Utilisation Policy.

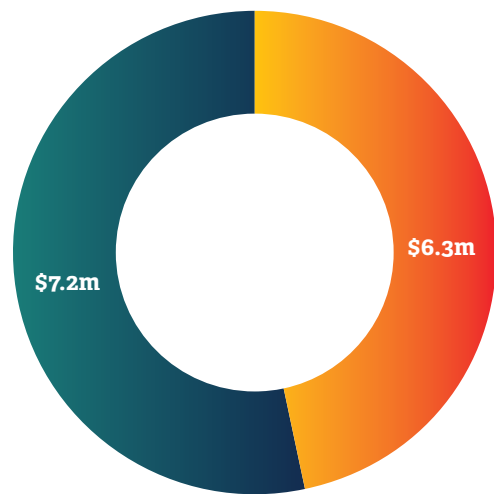
The investment signals in this Statement provide guidance all applicants seeking funding from the Levy.

This Statement should be read in conjunction with:

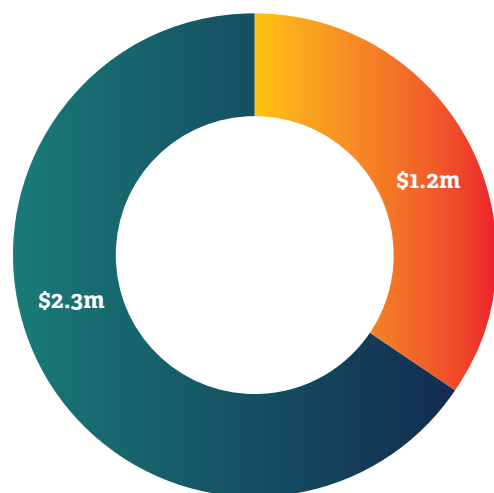
- [RE:INVEST 2023](#)
- [Annual Review 2023](#)

These documents can be found on the BRANZ website. [www.branz.co.nz](http://www.branz.co.nz)

**BRANZ Ltd** Indicative funding for 2025/26



**Other research** Indicative funding for 2025/26

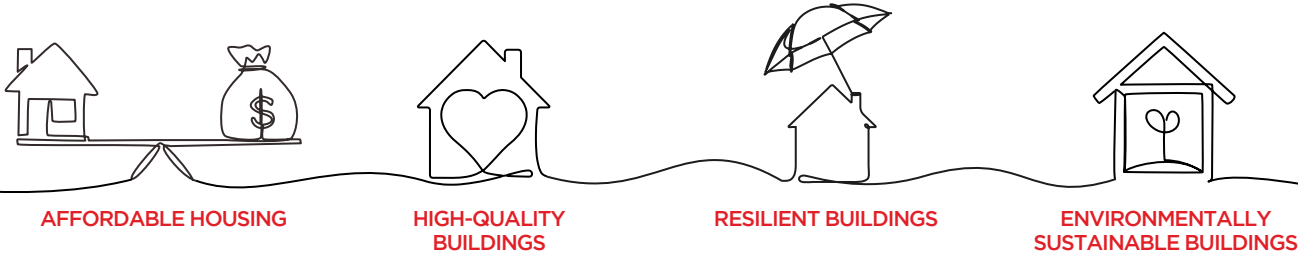


● Available ● Committed

\*These figures are correct as of 1 April 2024, but are subject to change.

# Investment signals

New research is sought for projects starting in 2025/26 in four main areas.



## 1. Improving housing affordability for all New Zealanders

Housing affordability is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most significant socio-economic issues. Research to understand the issues for housing affordability and investigating interventions practiced internationally is important for addressing the issue. BRANZ Inc. will invest in the following areas:

- Research to support the development of a definition of housing affordability, the factors that make up this definition, how these factors can be compared internationally and tracked over time.
- Research to understand the barriers to home affordability and to investigate potential intervention options.
- Research to deliver new and innovative materials, typologies, processes, systems, technologies, techniques and practices that will significantly improve housing supply and affordability.
- Research to develop low-cost pathways to supply warm, dry, and healthy homes.
- Research to investigate supply and demand cycles of housing in cities and regions and their impact on vulnerable population groups and industry.

## 2. Improving the quality of Aotearoa New Zealand's building stock

We are committed to a future where all buildings are safe, healthy, durable, and of high quality. Research to identify affordable pathways to improve the overall quality of housing is important for the society, economy, and individuals. BRANZ Inc. will invest in the following areas:

- Research to develop and or adopt methods, materials, processes, and technology, to improve the quality of new and existing buildings.
- Research to deliver affordable high quality housing that meets people's diverse needs such as those relating to physical, and cognitive constraints, and cultural requirements.
- Research to improve fire safety of buildings, for example, through optimal design and material choices.

## 3. Resilience of buildings to natural hazards

All buildings must be resilient to natural hazards. Research to

identify affordable options to improve building resilience is important for Aotearoa New Zealand. BRANZ Inc. will invest in the following areas:

- Research to improve resilience to natural hazards of new and existing homes based on their geospatial location.
- Research to deliver affordable solutions for repairing and restoring buildings following severe weather events.

## 4. Improving environmental sustainability and circularity of the built environment

While our focus on developing low carbon solutions within the design and operation of buildings remains strong, acknowledging and understanding whole-building, whole of life emissions especially resource efficiency and circularity are increasingly becoming critical. BRANZ Inc will invest in the following areas:

- Research focusing on affordable low-carbon design and materials for delivering low carbon buildings.
- Research focusing on the practices, systems and methods that would deliver pathways that will improve resource efficiency and circularity for building materials.

### Important considerations

In support of these signals, we have identified the following cross-cutting aspects that should be considered:

- Cost-benefit assessment of the research solutions.
- Integration across investment signals.
- Mātauranga Māori and Te Ao Māori.
- Needs of the building and construction industry workforce to deliver the outcomes sought through the investment signals.

Where relevant new research must integrate across research being undertaken by BRANZ Ltd and other research organisations across Aotearoa New Zealand.

We will also direct investment to compliment ongoing research.

# Our investment criteria

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All proposals will be reviewed by an assessment panel comprised of industry and research representatives who provide advice to BRANZ Inc. Proposals must align with Investment Signals in page 4 and must demonstrate:

- **A clear need for proposed research:** Demonstrate the issues for the building stock, industry, or the public that the research will help resolve. Proposed research must be new, and results must generate value to Aotearoa New Zealand through economic, social, and environmental benefits. This may also include developing evidence around emerging issues or co-designing solutions to known issues; or trialling of interventions to create change in the building system.
- **Research excellence:** We expect projects to have a commitment to excellence in research. Proposals should identify and provide evidence of:
  - » Methodology appropriate to addressing research questions.
  - » Succinct and clear intervention logic.
  - » Systems approach: System thinking recognises that many issues faced by the industry are supported by entrenched views, beliefs, and behaviours. Proposals should apply systems view and include a stakeholder matrix that outlines the expected involvement of stakeholders that may include relevant individuals, groups, and organisations across the building system to facilitate systems change.
  - » Leveraging and co-ordinating with other relevant research or related activities in Aotearoa New Zealand and overseas.
  - » Robust risk matrix and mitigation plan.
  - » Approach to validating and peer reviewing.
  - » Clear channels to implement research findings and ensure uptake of research.
- **Ability to deliver:** The research team's combined capability, capacity and access to research facilities are critical for successful delivery. The research team's track record in delivering Levy research (if applicable) is equally important. Proposals should demonstrate that proposed research will be delivered by multi-disciplinary teams that contribute the expertise needed for the research, the researchers have access to required facilities and has the capacity to undertake proposed work.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Collaboration is at the heart of our work to ensure successful and sustainable transformation of both the built environment and the building and construction system. This includes relevant

co-investment, co-ordination and co-designing across research, co-ordination between research and policy, and co-ordination of research across investment signals.

- **A defined impact:** BRANZ Inc. is committed to investing in research findings that will translate into actionable outputs. Proposals should demonstrate how the research may lead to impact, and a proposed pathway to achieve this. Proposals should:
  - » Describe what success will look like and expected pathways to deliver impact, and how this impact will be measured, including who will ensure uptake of research outputs. Proposals must demonstrate the effort made to effectively involve stakeholders, for example, through co-creation of research questions, aims, and objectives.

## Out of Cycle Proposals

Out of Cycle proposals provide the opportunity for researchers to respond to urgent and critical systems issues such as a significant health risk associated with buildings, building material or significant material shortage. These projects should be less than \$100,000 in value and be not more than 12 months duration. Projects must secure relevant endorsement and co-funding contribution, which could be in cash or in-kind. These projects can either be stand-alone or bridging research.

## Scholarships programme is under review in 2024

This year we are reviewing our scholarships programme to ensure that it is well-positioned to deliver the best outcomes. While the review is underway, we will not request new scholarship proposals. We will continue to support the scholarships currently contracted and underway. We strongly encourage research proposals to consider students (particularly Masters and PhD scholars) to be part of the project team when there's a strong alignment between the project's concept and the student's interest area of research.

# Key investments in other enabling activities

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## Knowledge transfer

Research proposals exclusively for knowledge transfer should:

- Undertake due diligence to ensure knowledge transfer activities align with BRANZ Inc. priorities and needs of the relevant audiences.
- Demonstrate the effort made to effectively involve relevant stakeholders. Where possible, knowledge transfer activities should be co-designed with relevant stakeholders to facilitate behavioural change.
- Identify the appropriate channels for the target audience.
- Seek to facilitate two-way communications and collaboration between the researchers and stakeholders to optimise the uptake of new knowledge.
- Describe expected pathways to deliver impact, and how that will be assessed and monitored in future.
- Demonstrate ongoing value of continued knowledge transfer support.
- Demonstrate the approach to strengthening or re-setting knowledge transfer activities where a significant change in direction of research or target audiences occurs.

## Enabling activities

BRANZ Inc. invests in long-term activities such as weathering sites to support durability related research, and large-scale testing facilities, and longitudinal studies or surveys such as the House Condition Survey.

Existing activities should demonstrate the value for continued support. This includes providing evidence about the ongoing or changing needs, use or demand. This should include self-assessment against agreed targets, and external feedback to demonstrate the need for the activity.

The consideration for investing in new activities will be based on researchers' demonstration of need in supporting existing research or addressing ongoing issues.

# Additional guidance for external proposals

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## Value of proposals

We seek to achieve the best possible value for investment. The value proposition should be clearly articulated including outcome measures.

## Budget and co-funding

Detailed budget information will be required to support investment decisions. While co-funding is not a mandatory requirement, please demonstrate how you have investigated additional sources of funding. We will consider co-funding (cash or in-kind contributions) in the assessment process.

## Delivery timelines

Our investment will be directed towards projects that produce timely results. We expect proposals to be clear about the resourcing required to carry out the research and include indicative timelines. Detailed timelines will be agreed during contracting and are subject to wider programme requirements.

## Conflict of interest

Applicants are required to identify the nature of any conflicts of interest (actual or potential) and how they intend to manage the conflict. This includes commercial conflicts of interest that co-funding parties might have related to the research. For instance, products used for the research will not be mentioned using their brand names. Instead, their technical specifications will be used to prevent any unintentional promotion.

## Private gain

BRANZ Inc. invests in research for industry good. Private gain is where a project is identified as having exclusive benefit to a single entity (or a group of entities) and compromises competition in the market. This includes research into issues around a new product system which is only provided by one company and will not generate system wide benefits or public good. Applicants are required to identify any potential private gain within the proposal. BRANZ Inc. and its Assessment Panels will assess the extent of any perceived 'private gain' (if any) that exists in any proposal. If private gain exists, we will review the importance of the proposal and will consider whether any private gain risk can be appropriately managed or mitigated.

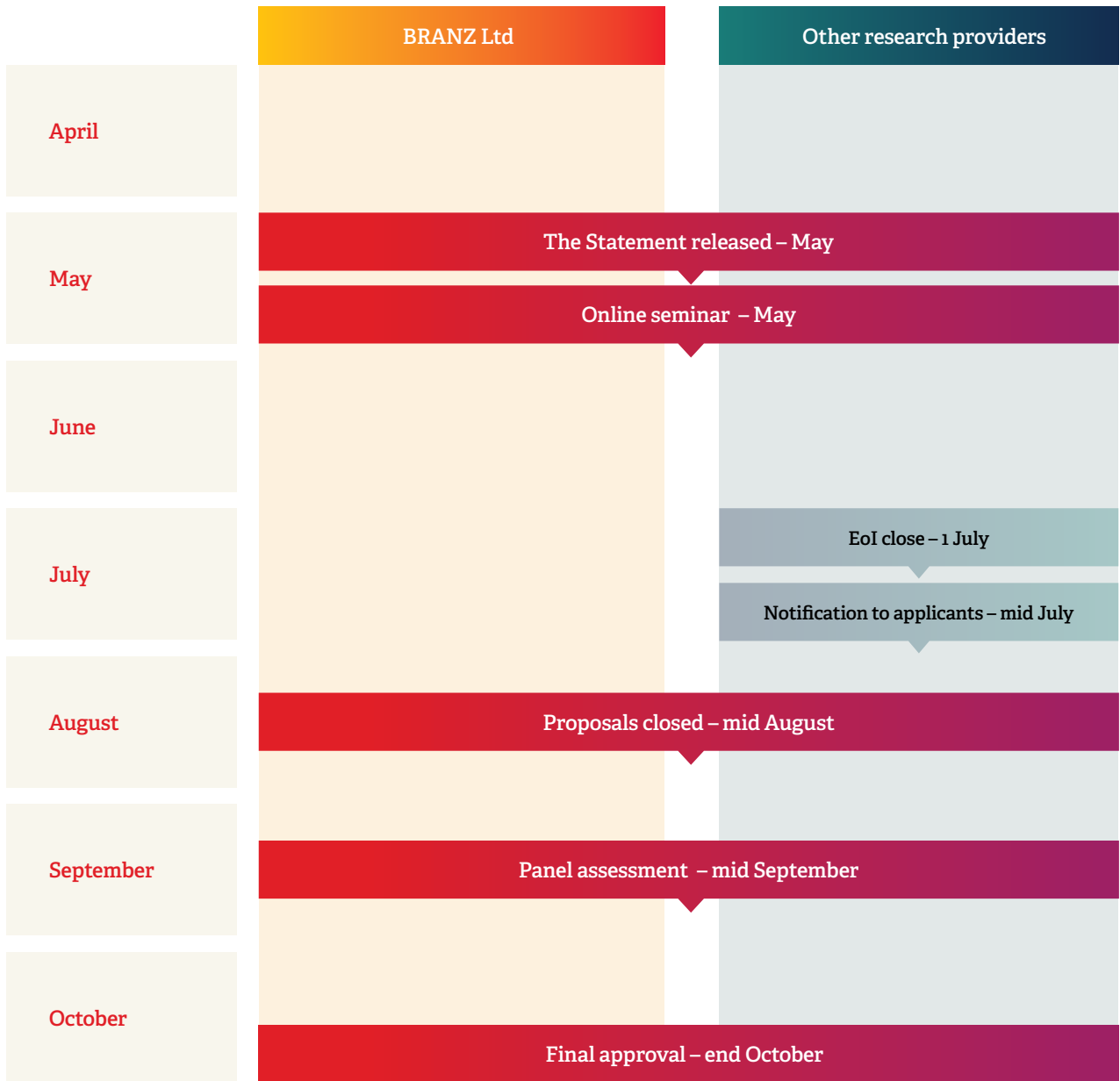
## Intellectual property

More information relating to intellectual property can be found in our terms and conditions on page 10 of the application form. Please find link here for additional information.

The application form can be found [here](#), which contains a section on terms and conditions for BRANZ Inc's external research investments.

# Our timeframe

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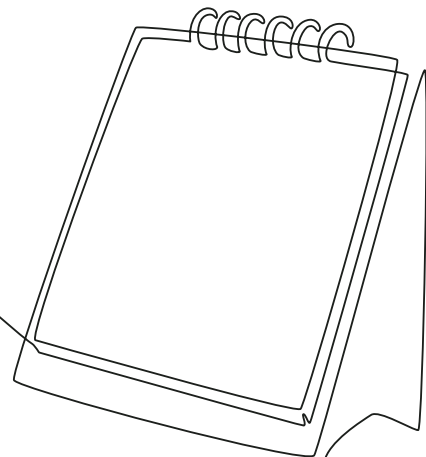


If you are interested in finding out more, please visit our website

[www.branz.co.nz/investing-research](http://www.branz.co.nz/investing-research)

For any questions, you are welcome to contact us at

[researchinvestment@branz.org.nz](mailto:researchinvestment@branz.org.nz)



For more information, please get in touch:

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