



Building Research Levy

# Prospectus

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JULY 2023



# Building Research Levy investment

To thrive as a society, New Zealanders need a built environment that is safe, healthy and performs well.

BRANZ Inc. invests the Building Research Levy in research and knowledge sharing activities that drive transformation across the building and construction system. We co-create enduring solutions that make a real difference in the lives of people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The level of investment available is set by the BRANZ Inc. Board in keeping with its Long-term Levy Utilisation Policy. Our Investments Portfolio Statement outlines how the Building Research Levy will be allocated in 2024/25.

## How we invest

As the steward of the Building Research Levy, we invest in:

- Work initiated by and contracted with **BRANZ Ltd**, the wholly-owned subsidiary of BRANZ Inc. This involves co-designing research with industry and external researchers and regularly includes sub-contracts with external providers.
- Work initiated by and contracted with **external research providers**. This can also include sub-contracts with BRANZ Ltd.
- **Scholarships** to support the next generation of researchers and help increase tertiary capability around Aotearoa New Zealand.
- **Agile investment** to respond to urgent system issues or opportunities that emerge outside of programmed investment rounds. We use agile investment to act quickly to undertake new research throughout the year. Both BRANZ Ltd and external researchers are invited to use this mechanism.
- **Strategic initiatives** to invest in significant activities above and beyond BRANZ's baseline of research investment. These are typically focussed on national strategic initiatives and are approved by the BRANZ Inc. Board.

## Related resources

This Prospectus should be read in conjunction with:

- **RE:INVEST 2022**. An overview of BRANZ's research portfolio and existing research activities.
- **Investment Portfolio Statement 2023**. This outlines investment of the Building Research Levy.

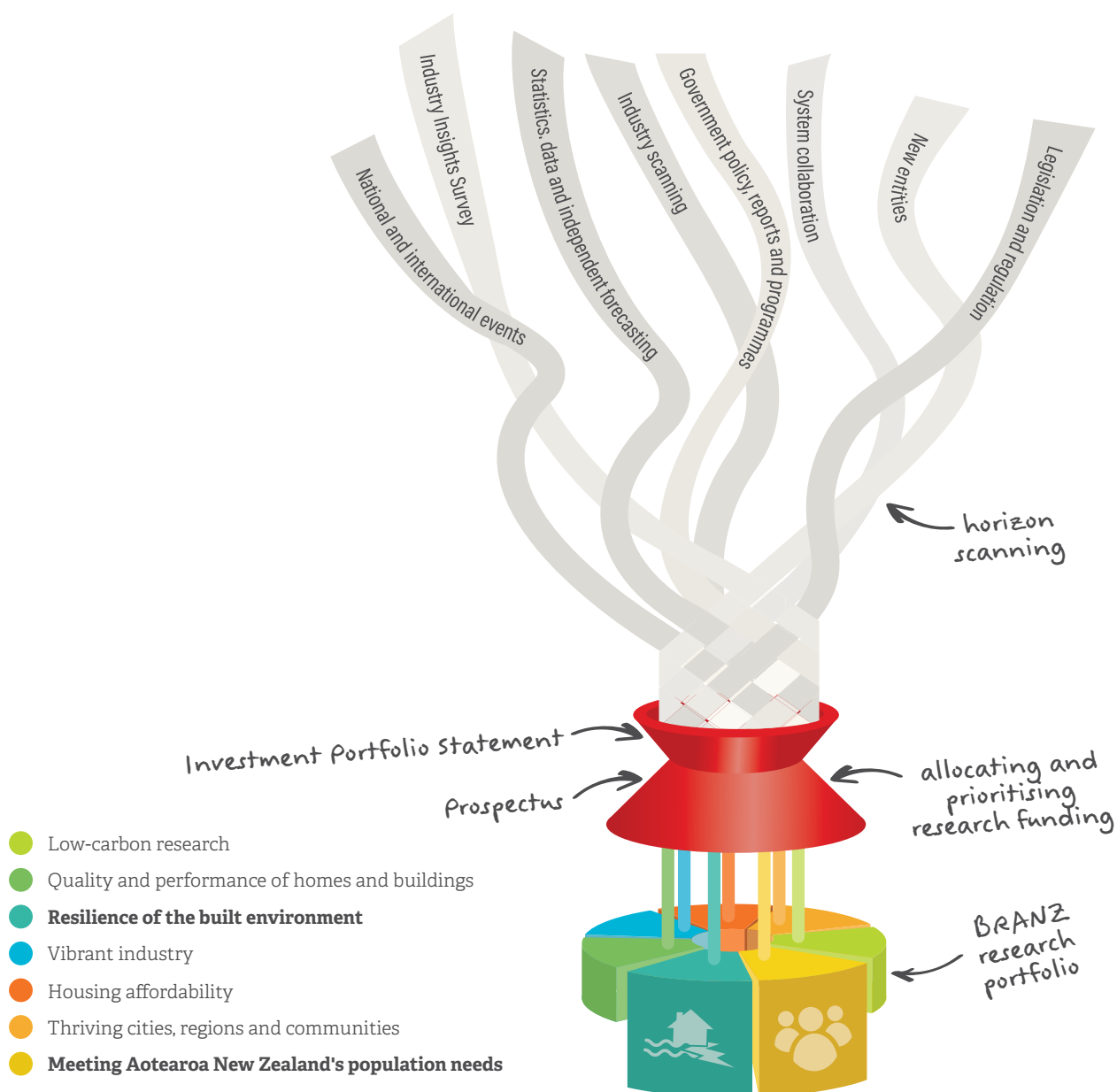
Find these documents at [www.branz.co.nz/investing-research](http://www.branz.co.nz/investing-research)

# Areas of research focus

BRANZ holds a uniquely independent and impartial view of the entire building system. We continually scan the system and engage with a wide range of stakeholders to gather insights, understand patterns and identify levers. This ensures that our research investment responds to the most important and urgent needs facing Aotearoa New Zealand's building system.

The BRANZ research portfolio has seven enduring themes that correspond with these system needs and, consequently, outline the areas of investment for the Building Research Levy. This ensures that our **Investment Portfolio Statement** signals the priority areas of Levy investment for 2024/25.

Find more detail about the Investment Portfolio Statement and the BRANZ research portfolio in **RE:INVEST 2022** at [www.branz.co.nz/investing-research](http://www.branz.co.nz/investing-research).



# Call for research proposals

This Prospectus is seeking expressions of interest (EOIs) for specific and practical research that will drive positive change within two portfolio themes: resilience of the built environment and meeting Aotearoa New Zealand's population needs.

The intent of an EOI is to outline the research concept and approach. Successful EOIs will be invited to develop a more detailed full proposal.



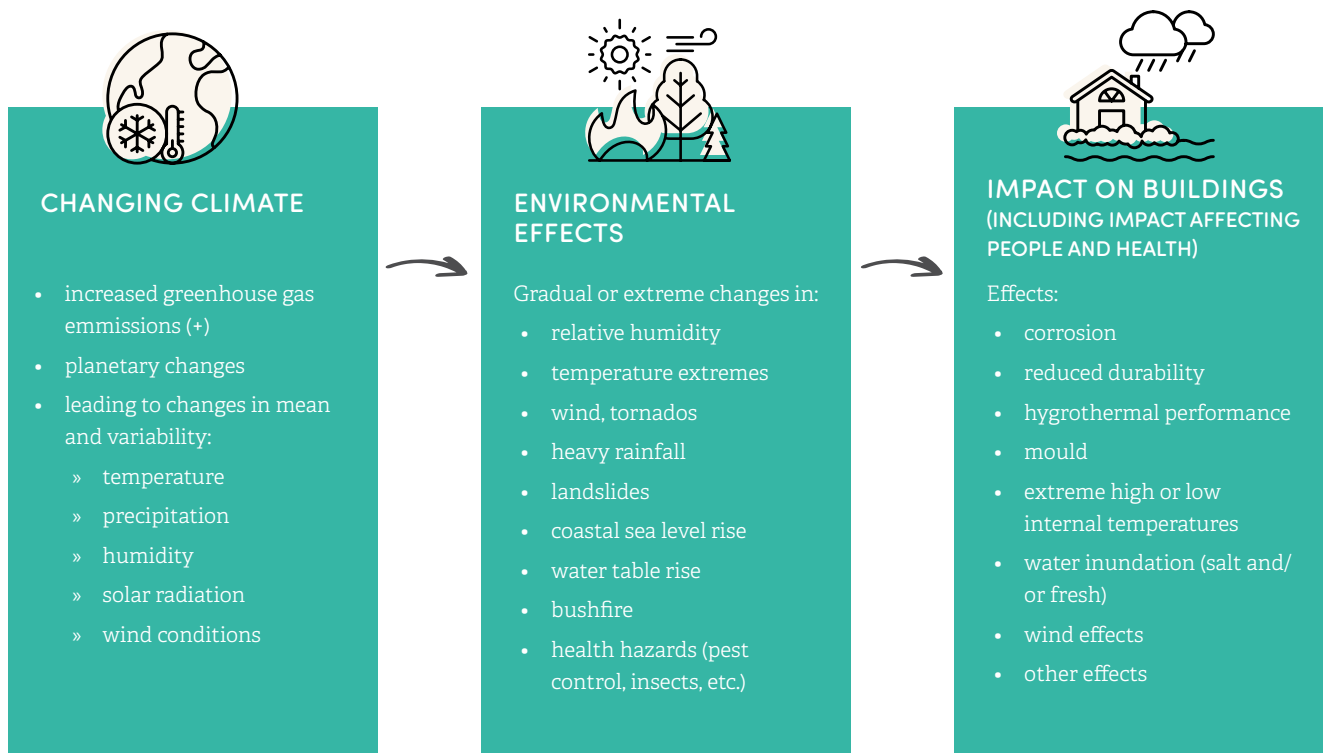
## Understanding the impacts of climate change on the building envelope

“People living and working in buildings that are more resilient would have greater confidence in surviving climate change induced scenarios, such as extreme weather events. This would positively contribute to social stability, both in the short term and long term.”

Source: MBIE Global Resiliency Dialogue Second Survey of Building Code Stakeholders – New Zealand

This prospectus focuses on research to better understand how Aotearoa New Zealand's changing climate may affect the building envelope, which includes foundations, floors, walls, roofs, cladding and the durability of its materials. We call for research that identifies practical building and design solutions that could be adopted, adapted or developed for new and existing buildings, and how uptake is supported.

## Potential impacts of the changing climate on the building envelope



Source image adapted from National Research Council Canada, 2022. Durability and Climate Change—Implications for Service Life Prediction and the Maintainability of Buildings Fig. 4. Available at [MDPI.com](https://www.mdpi.com).

## We are seeking research into:

1. Outlining renovation options and return on investment profiles for different typologies facing different climate challenges. This research seeks to help people make informed decisions when facing unknown factors.
2. Understanding how the changing climate is affecting the building envelope. Informed by data, this research will seek to understand impacts and evaluate the actual or possible extent of issues.
3. Exploring preventive measures and solutions for existing buildings to withstand climate-related impacts, both gradual and extreme (as shown in the infographic on page 4).
4. Analysing and developing different approaches for building system “actors”<sup>1</sup> to build, renovate, maintain, and deconstruct buildings to adapt as the climate changes.
5. Identifying building and design solutions for Aotearoa New Zealand’s dwellings to withstand the wide scope of climate-related impacts.

Research proposals should consider:

- International literature and existing BRANZ research
- Introduction of new and durable building materials
- Wider impacts, decision compromises and unintended consequences of different approaches
- Building typologies
- Differences in regional, community and cultural needs
- Accessibility outcomes of different solutions and approaches

Please note we are not seeking research related to urban planning.

## Related resources:

- Build Magazine, 196, June 2023. [Climate change](#)
- Build Magazine, 196, June 2023. [Materials under the changing climate Article](#).
- Global Resiliency Dialogue Second Survey of Building Code Stakeholders – New Zealand: [Delivering Climate Responsive Resilient Building Codes and Standards](#)
- MBIE: [Building for climate change](#)
- [Global Building Resilience Guidelines 2022](#)
- Climate Resilient Buildings and Core Public Infrastructure (CRBCPI): [Climate-Resilient Buildings and Core Public Infrastructure Summary Report 2016-2017](#)
- Buildings 2020, 10 (3), 53. [Durability and Climate Change—Implications for Service Life Prediction and the Maintainability of Buildings](#)
- [Climate Resilient Built Environment Initiative](#)

<sup>1</sup> By actors, we mean people (for example, home owners and occupiers), institutions (banks, insurers and others), regulators, media, manufacturers, builders, designers, technology developers, etc. that interact with each other within the system.



## Adapting Aotearoa New Zealand's built environment to better meet the needs and wants of our diverse population

The way we live in Aotearoa New Zealand is changing. People's needs and expectations of their homes, workplaces, and the wider built environment is continually shifting.

The Tatauranga Aotearoa | Stats NZ *Framework for housing quality* outlines four interconnected elements of housing quality.

This prospectus focuses on **functionality** and **social and cultural sustainability** and applies them to the wider built environment and understanding the role of system "actors".

**"Housing functionality** – the degree to which the design, construction, and location of housing support the specific physical, mental, emotional, cultural, and social needs of individuals, families, and whānau in their kāinga and communities.

**"Social and cultural sustainability** – the degree to which housing design is flexible enough to respond to changes in the specific physical, cultural, and social needs of individuals, families, and whānau, thereby supporting functionality across time."

Source: Stats NZ, [Framework for Housing Quality](#)

### We are seeking research into:

1. Identifying the design and construction decisions that enable a home to meet the social, cultural and physical needs of many different New Zealanders. How might this vary for different typologies, and for new or existing buildings?
2. Understanding the relationship between the built environment (and its amenities) and societal or workforce participation. The research should seek to interpret how the built environment can support social, cultural and inclusion aspirations.
3. Exploring how people's different physical and cognitive requirements can influence accessibility for different building typologies. This could include how consumers are involved in accessibility design decisions for new builds and renovations.
4. Evaluating how changing expectations, such as shifts in lifestyle or work preferences, influence the features and functions required in buildings. What roles do system actors<sup>2</sup> play in these expectations?
5. Exploring tangible pathways to housing affordability that are culturally appropriate and accessible across a range of typologies. This could include tenures, economic factors such as the perceived trade-off between improvements and affordability, rapid acceptance of alternative solutions, or the effects of planning on affordability.
6. Understanding trends in the services or functions<sup>3</sup> of buildings (residential and commercial) and their surrounding built environment. Research should aim to identify;
  - » underlying economic, social, cultural, cognitive and other factors that have influenced those trends,
  - » whether we can draw conclusions to inform future needs and expectations,
  - » how actors in the residential and commercial building system can inform trends and/or respond to the population's needs and wants. This includes which information they use or respond to that influences the building system.

We are not seeking research into purely quantitative analysis of existing data sets, although research should include analysis to support trends and identify patterns.

### Related resources:

- Stats NZ, [Framework for housing quality](#)
- Whaikaha | Ministry of Disabled People, [System Transformation and Enabling Good Lives](#)

<sup>2</sup> By actors, we mean people (for example, home owners and occupiers), institutions (banks, insurers and others), regulators, media, manufacturers, builders, designers, technology developers, etc. that interact with each other within the system.

<sup>3</sup> By services or functions, we mean the basics of shelter, accessibility, warmth, cooking, economic activity etc.

# Expectations for research proposals

EOIs should address these expectations at a high level. Further detail will be required at the full proposal stage. Templates will be provided that outline the expectations for each stage.

## Prospectus alignment

BRANZ is seeking to fund innovative and practical research projects that clearly address the research topics outlined in this Prospectus.

## Systems thinking

To help ensure our research investment will contribute to meaningful system transformation, proposals should outline how the research will:

- help identify system issues,
- grow understanding about a complex system issue,
- encourage system-wide improvement, and
- inform solutions designed to drive behavioural change.

## Behaviour change

We invest in practical research that drives positive behaviour change.

Proposals should:

- Detail how the research has been co-designed with stakeholders to help create behaviour change.
- Demonstrate the effort made to effectively involve stakeholders, proportionate with the nature of the research.
- Outline how the research could be communicated to people and organisations who have an ability to use the results. This should show how the research will be translated into actionable and accessible insights. It is expected that reports or other outputs will be accompanied by concise summaries which have the potential to be published.
- Clearly articulate the anticipated impact of the research and, as specifically as possible, who may benefit.
- Outline how the methodology will enable behaviour change.
- Describe expected pathways to deliver impact, including what a solution may look like and how this might be assessed in future.

## Research excellence

Proposals should:

- Provide clearly defined, realistic research objectives that address the research topics and should demonstrate a robust methodology.
- Draw together strong teams. We encourage applicants to consider multi-disciplinary and multi-organisational proposals.
- Leverage and coordinate with other research. We do not fund proposals that replicate work already underway or that would otherwise be delivered through other research activities or providers.
- Show support secured/required from key stakeholders and include details of key individuals and businesses and the nature of any collaboration (for example, whether it is hoped for or confirmed).

For more detail, refer to our [Investment Portfolio Statement](#)

# Guidance for proposals

## Value of proposals

We seek to achieve the best possible value for investment. This Prospectus is intended for projects with a total funding request of up to \$200,000 per project. We will consider projects over that amount on a case-by-case basis if the need is justified.

- Investment can be sought over multiple years.
- Detailed budget information will be required to support investment decisions.
- While co-funding is not a 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 for the proposals. 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 also 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 but by their technical specifications to prevent any unintentional promotion.

## Private gain

BRANZ invests in research for industry good. Private gain is where a project is identified as having value to the industry, but which might benefit a single entity (or group of entities) in particular. This includes research into issues around a new product system which is only provided by one company, but is anticipated will become more widespread in the market.

Applicants are required to identify any potential private gain within the proposal, which will be reviewed by the **Prospectus Assessment Panel**. BRANZ 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

Detail related to intellectual property can be found in our terms and conditions on page 10 of this prospectus.



# Process and timeline

This Prospectus is for a two-stage application process for receiving and assessing proposals.

1. The first stage calls for expressions of interest (EOIs) to be sent to [researchinvestment@branz.org.nz](mailto:researchinvestment@branz.org.nz), using the template provided.

The template is designed to restrict the length of project descriptions and should not be accompanied by any additional materials. EOIs received that exceed the specified length and/or have further explanatory attachments may not be considered for funding.

2. Short-listed EOIs will be invited to develop their concept in more detail and submit the full proposal template, which will be sent directly to the successful EOI applicants.

Full proposals will then be assessed, and successful applicants will be notified.

## Next steps

1. Check your idea responds to the specific research topics in this Prospectus.
2. Attend the online seminar. If you are interested in submitting a proposal, it is strongly recommended you register and attend an online seminar. Register [here](#)
3. Download and complete the EOI template available on our website: [www.branz.co.nz/prospectus](http://www.branz.co.nz/prospectus)
4. Ensure your EOI meets the research expectations outlined on page 7 and is signed by an appropriate person.
5. Send your completed EOI to [researchinvestment@branz.org.nz](mailto:researchinvestment@branz.org.nz) by 28 August 2023.

After we have assessed all the EOIs, we will notify you:

- to submit a full proposal; or
- that a full proposal is not required (and provide feedback as to why).

## Timeline

Prospectus launch and call for EOIs	17 July 2023
Online seminar registration period	From 18 July to 27 July 2023
Online seminar	1 August 2023
BRANZ is available to discuss potential proposals	Up to 14 August 2023
Deadline for return of EOIs	12 noon on 28 August 2023
Notification about progression to full application stage	26 September 2023
Deadline for return of full proposals	31 October 2023
<b>Full proposals will be considered and applicants notified in December 2023.</b>	

At the end of the Prospectus round we will conduct a survey to ask for your feedback.

**If you have any questions about this Prospectus, please contact [researchinvestment@branz.org.nz](mailto:researchinvestment@branz.org.nz)**

# Terms and conditions of this Prospectus

## 1. General

The terms and conditions of this Prospectus are set out below and apply to the applicant, including the organisation applying on their behalf. The terms and conditions are non-negotiable and do not require a response. Each applicant that submits a proposal will be deemed to have agreed to these Prospectus terms and conditions without reservation or variation.

## 2. Investigations and reliance on information

You must examine this Prospectus and any documents referenced by this Prospectus and carry out all necessary investigations before submitting a proposal. If you are in doubt as to the meaning of any part of this Prospectus, you must set out in your proposal the interpretation and any assumptions you used.

BRANZ Inc. will not be liable (in contract or tort, including negligence, or otherwise) to anyone who relies on any information provided by or on behalf of BRANZ Inc. in or in connection with this Prospectus.

## 3. Reliance by applicants

All information contained in this Prospectus or given to any applicant by BRANZ Inc. is for the purpose of allowing that applicant to prepare its proposal. BRANZ Inc. has endeavoured to ensure the integrity of such information. However, it has not been independently verified and may not be updated.

## 4. Reliance by BRANZ Inc.

BRANZ Inc. may rely upon all statements made by any applicant in a proposal and in correspondence or negotiations with BRANZ Inc. or its representatives. If a proposal is approved by BRANZ Inc., any such statements may be included within a Contract.

You must ensure all information provided to BRANZ Inc. is complete and accurate. BRANZ Inc. is under no obligation to check any proposal for errors, omissions, or inaccuracies. You will notify BRANZ Inc. promptly upon becoming aware of any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in your proposal or in any additional information provided by you.

## 5. Inducements

You must not directly or indirectly provide any form of inducement or reward to any officer, employee, advisor, or other representative of BRANZ Inc., or BRANZ Ltd, in connection with this Prospectus process.

## 6. Ownership and intellectual property

This Prospectus and any other documents supplied by BRANZ Inc. to any applicant remain the property of BRANZ Inc. All copyright and other intellectual property rights in this Prospectus and any documentation and other information provided to any applicant or any other person by or on behalf of BRANZ Inc. in connection with this Prospectus will remain with, and belong at all times to, BRANZ Inc. or its licensors.

BRANZ Inc. may request the immediate return of all documents supplied and any copies made of them at any time. You must comply with any such request in a timely manner.

You may only distribute this Prospectus to the extent necessary for the purpose of preparing your proposal.

Any proposals or information supplied by you to BRANZ Inc. will become the property of BRANZ Inc. and may not be returned to you. Ownership of the intellectual property rights in a proposal does not pass to BRANZ Inc. However, in submitting a proposal, you grant BRANZ Inc. a nonexclusive, non-transferable, perpetual licence to use, disclose, and copy your proposal for any purpose related to this Prospectus process.

By submitting a proposal, you warrant that the provision of that information to BRANZ Inc., and the use of it by BRANZ Inc. for the evaluation of the proposal and for any resulting negotiation, will not breach any third-party intellectual property rights.

## 7. Confidentiality

BRANZ Inc. will treat your proposal as confidential.

## 8. The proposal process

You should be aware that the following rights are reserved.

- Your proposal may not be approved.
- All or any proposal(s) may be rejected.
- This Prospectus may be suspended or cancelled, or replaced with a new Prospectus, at any time.
- Any date in the Prospectus process may be amended or extended.
- This Prospectus or any associated documents may be amended.
- Any irregularities or informalities in the Prospectus process may be waived.
- Part of a proposal from any applicant(s) may be accepted.
- This Prospectus may be reissued.
- This Prospectus process may be suspended and/or cancelled (in whole or part) if a material or significant issue emerges during the process.
- Any information provided with a proposal may be retained or destroyed.
- Clarification may be sought from you in relation to any matter in connection with this Prospectus process.
- You may be contacted, which may be to the exclusion of any other applicant(s), at any time before or after the approval (if any) of proposal(s).
- BRANZ Inc. may reject or not consider further any documentation related to your proposal that may be received from you, unless it is specifically requested.
- This Prospectus process may be run in such manner as BRANZ Inc. may see fit.

## 9. No contractual obligations created

No contract or other legal obligations arise between BRANZ Inc. and any applicant out of, or in relation to, this Prospectus or Prospectus process, until a formal written contract (if any) is signed by both BRANZ Inc. and the successful applicant.

This Prospectus does not constitute an offer by BRANZ Inc. to provide funding or enter into any agreement with any applicant. The request for and receipt of proposals does not imply any obligation on BRANZ Inc. to contract for any funding requested in any proposal. BRANZ Inc. will not be bound in any way until the Contract is executed.

BRANZ Inc. makes no representations nor gives any warranties in this Prospectus.

Any verbal communications made during the Prospectus process will not be binding on BRANZ Inc. and are subject to the terms of this Prospectus.

## **10. No process contract**

Despite any other provision in this Prospectus or any other document relating to this Prospectus, the issue of this Prospectus does not legally oblige or otherwise commit BRANZ Inc. to proceed with or follow the process outlined in this Prospectus or to assess any particular applicant's proposal or enter into any negotiations or contractual arrangements with any applicant.

For the avoidance of doubt, this Prospectus process does not give rise to a process contract.

## **11. Exclusion of liability**

Neither BRANZ Inc. nor any assessment panel members, officers, employees, advisers or other representatives will be liable (in contract or tort, including negligence, or otherwise) for any direct or indirect damage, expense, loss or cost (including legal costs) incurred or suffered by any applicant, its affiliates or other person in connection with this Prospectus process, including without limitation:

- a. the assessment process,
- b. the preparation of any proposal,
- c. any investigations of or by any applicant,
- d. concluding any contract,
- e. the acceptance or rejection of any proposal,
- f. the suspension or cancellation of the process contemplated in this Prospectus, or
- g. any information given or not given to any applicant(s).

By participating in this Prospectus process, each applicant waives any rights that it may have to make any claim against BRANZ Inc. To the extent that legal relations between BRANZ Inc. and any applicant cannot be excluded as a matter of law, the liability of BRANZ Inc. is limited to \$1.

Nothing contained or implied in or arising out of this Prospectus or any other communications to any applicant shall be construed as legal, financial, or other advice of any kind.

## **12. Costs and expenses**

BRANZ Inc. is not responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by you in the preparation of a proposal.

## **13. Governing law and jurisdiction**

This Prospectus will be construed according to, and governed by, New Zealand law and you agree to submit to the Governing law and jurisdiction of New Zealand courts in any dispute concerning this Prospectus or any proposal.

## **14. Public statements**

BRANZ Inc. may make public, for accepted proposals only, the following information:

- the name of any applicant
- the proposal title
- a summary of the research
- the total amount of funding applied for
- the period of time for which funding has been requested.

You are requested not to release any media statement or other information relating to the process outlined in this Prospectus and the submission or approval of any proposal in any public medium without providing sufficient advance notice to BRANZ Inc.

For more information, please get in touch:

**[branz.co.nz](http://branz.co.nz) | [researchinvestment@branz.org.nz](mailto:researchinvestment@branz.org.nz)**



**BRANZ Inc.**

1222 Moonshine Road, Judgeford, Porirua City 5381, Aotearoa New Zealand

» **[branz.co.nz](http://branz.co.nz)**