

Levy Investment Signals

2018/19

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

BRANZ's vision is to inspire the industry to provide better buildings for New Zealanders. This document signals BRANZ's priorities for research in 2018/19. Research providers seeking Building Research Levy should align their research to these priorities.

BRANZ also recognises that other research is being funded by entities that contribute to better buildings for New Zealanders. A range of important work is being carried out by universities, Crown Research Institutes and independent research organisations. Significant research initiatives currently funded or conducted by others include:

- **Building Better Homes, Towns and Cities - National Science Challenge** [www.buildingbetter.nz]
- **Ageing Well - National Science Challenge** [Enabling older people's independence, active lives & participation in the face of structural housing tenure changes] [www.ageingwellchallenge.co.nz]
- **He Kainga Oranga:** the housing and health research programme [www.healthyhousing.org.nz]
- **Building Innovation:** Infrastructure Systems Engineered for Improved Value and Resilience [www.quakecentre.co.nz]
- **Ending homelessness in NZ:** Housing First [www.housingfirst.co.nz]
- There is also considerable work underway looking at **resilience and the built environment**. This includes work led by the QuakeCentre, QuakeCORE, the Natural Hazards Research Platform and the Resilience National Science Challenge. Funding for research projects in this area is also provided by EQC and MBIE.

We wish to be clear that this list is not exhaustive. It is provided to help illustrate the range of other work being undertaken across New Zealand and to highlight the importance BRANZ places on aligning research activities.

Working in partnership and collaborating with other providers is an important part of how BRANZ strives to deliver best value from the Levy for New Zealanders. For more information on research supported by BRANZ and how we work please see the latest [Levy in Action](#).

Please note, these signals are high level statements, they are not an invitation to submit proposals. Proposals will be sought through BRANZ's annual investment round (a Prospectus) which is advised separately. We are open to proposals outside of this round on urgent matters, or to take advantage of timely opportunities.

PRIORITIES FOR 2018/19

If you wish to be involved, or want further information on these priorities, please contact research@branz.org.nz

BRANZ HAS FOUR EXISTING PROGRAMMES:

Work on the four current programmes remains a priority for BRANZ. These are:



[Medium-density housing that meets the needs of New Zealanders](#)



[Eliminating quality issues](#)



[Exceeding the Minimum](#)



[Warmer, drier, healthier buildings](#)

Positive feedback from programme advisory groups and other stakeholders confirm the ongoing need and importance of this work. In 18/19 we will invest in research that address specific research questions and advance work to achieve the critical success factors.

NEW PROGRAMMES



LOW CARBON TRANSITION: BRANZ has been carrying out work around the role of buildings in contributing to a low carbon economy. Discussions have progressed quickly with the Ministry for the Environment (MfE), MBIE and other key government stakeholders. Work is well underway scoping the new programme. Work on a new Zero Carbon Act has begun. This will accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy. In 18/19:

- BRANZ is continuing work with key stakeholders on the development of a new programme on the role of buildings and built environment to contribute to a low carbon economy.



KEEPING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY SAFE FROM FIRE: BRANZ is a centre of research expertise and capability around buildings and fires. A significant amount of fire research has already been undertaken and more is currently underway. Work has begun to establish a programme of work to co-ordinate and prioritise activity in this area and plan for what this will achieve in future. In 18/19:

- BRANZ is continuing work with key stakeholders in the development a new programme on keeping people and property safe from fire.

OTHER, DISTINCT, STAND-ALONE RESEARCH



FUTURE SKILLS: New Zealand continues to face a significant skills shortage in the construction industry. Significant research and work has been done to model the labour pipeline that is required to deliver new housing and non-residential housing in coming years. Much of this modelling is based on delivery through current, traditional construction approaches. In 18/19:

- We will invest in research which can help us understand the opportunities and implications of new methods of construction for future skills and the labour force. In particular, is there evidence from other countries which can provide insight around changes that are possible or likely as construction methods evolve?



STAND ALONE ISSUES a number of stand-alone issues were identified from discussions with key stakeholders as areas for attention in 2018/19. These are set out in the [2018/19 Prospectus](#).



RESEARCHER INITIATED PROPOSALS: Researchers have strong relationships with stakeholders that surfaces industry needs. They also have subject matter expertise and domestic and international networks that can provide important insights. We recognize this as a valuable source of potential proposals. Stand-alone research that addresses distinct industry issues is a key part of our investment of the Levy. In 18/19:

We will invest in research initiated by researchers that identify and address distinct, stand-alone industry issues.

- Any such proposal should be able to clearly state the research need or idea. It must present a compelling case for support including setting out backing from key stakeholders and end-users.

If you wish to submit a proposal on an urgent issue or to take advantage of a timely opportunity, please send an email to research@branz.org.nz.