



Life Cycle Assessment Services >>>

BRANZ provides an independent and unbiased Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) research, consulting, Ecolabeling and advisory service for material and product industries with particular expertise in the building and construction sector. BRANZ research supports policy development of both public and private sector organisations.

LCA Advantages

Why: LCA identifies the environmental strengths of materials / products / services that can be promoted through:

- > Environmental product declarations
- > Ecolabels
- > Carbon footprints

LCA also identifies the environmental liabilities and opportunities to mitigate them through process efficiencies and supply chain changes, whether it's greenhouse gases or full environmental impact.

The exciting thing about full LCA is how often it throws up unexpected results - the recycled product with higher impacts than the unrecycled, the disposable product with lower impacts than the reusable product, the low impact product made from high impact materials etc.

How: LCA work entails the comprehensive assessment of all inputs, outputs, wastes and pollution from a process and tracks these upstream and downstream of the production facility over the full life of the products/services.

Who: LCA can be used to inform decisions at several different levels - for individual material/product manufacturers, for trade associations, for building developers and owners, and for governments developing policies, regulations and incentives to promote reduced environmental impacts.

BRANZ differentiate themselves from other LCA providers by adopting an LCA methodology that is rigorously consistent across all material/product sectors, up and down the supply chain. BRANZ express LCA outputs in **Ecopoints**, such that 100 Ecopoints correspond to the annual impacts of an average Australian citizen.

Research and Policy Advice

BRANZ have been active in the advocacy for the establishment of an **Australian National Life Cycle Inventory Methodology and Database** so that future LCA studies will all be conducted on a consistent "level playing field" basis and be comparable between industry sectors at all points in the supply chain. BRANZ staff are highly experienced in these aspects and have pioneered similar work in the UK, the US and internationally.

BRANZ are active in establishing an Australian **ISO14024 compliant** programme for Ecolabels, environmental product declarations for materials / products / services.

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