



Investment Portfolio Statement

Building Research Levy

2023-2024



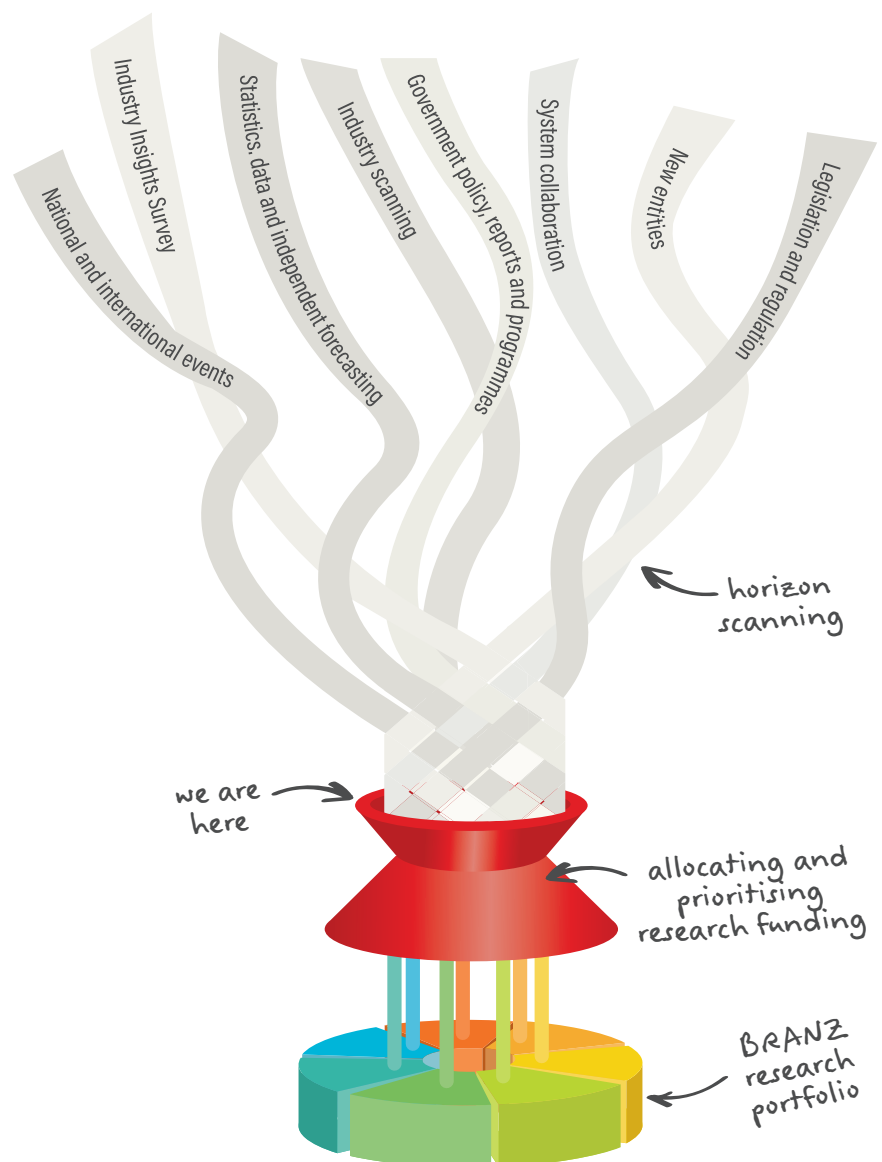
Investing in the future of Aotearoa New Zealand's building system

BRANZ Inc. is responsible for the stewardship of the Building Research Levy.

Our decisions about which research topics and projects to invest in have significant impact on improving building system performance in Aotearoa New Zealand, now and into the future.

We gather information from a wide range of sources. This ensures that research investment responds to the most important and urgent needs facing Aotearoa New Zealand's building system.

We invest in research that is practical and drives positive change across our research portfolio where it matters most.



How we invest

This Investment Portfolio Statement provides guidance on how the Building Research Levy will be allocated.

Through investment of the Building Research Levy (the Levy) BRANZ Inc. commissions 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.

BRANZ Inc. invests in:

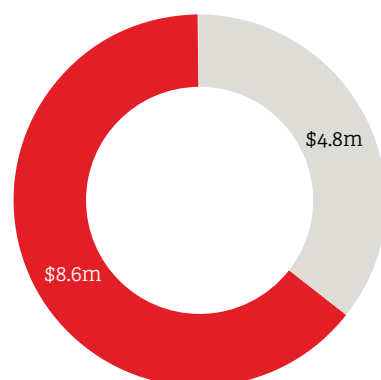
- **BRANZ Ltd**, the wholly owned subsidiary of BRANZ Inc., as ongoing re-investment through the annual Levy Allocation Advisory Group round – with the next tranche of projects to begin in the 2024/25 financial year.
- **External agencies, researchers and students** through the annual Prospectus and Scholarship rounds – with the next tranche of projects to begin in the 2024/25 financial year.

In addition to the above, BRANZ Inc. is open to receiving proposals which respond to urgent or timely industry needs at any time.

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.

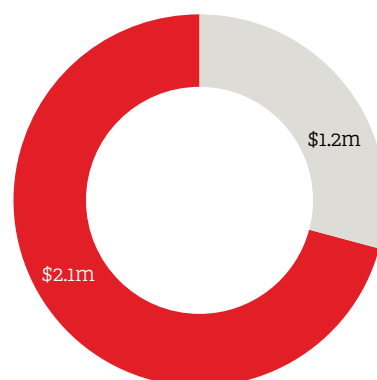
BRANZ Ltd

Indicative funding for 2024/25



External providers

Indicative funding for 2024/25



● Committed ● Available

*These figures are correct as of 1 April 2023, but are subject to change.

The investment signals in this Investment Portfolio Statement provide guidance both for BRANZ Ltd. and external researchers seeking funding from the Levy.

This Investment Portfolio Statement should be read in conjunction with:

- **RE:INVEST**. An overview of the BRANZ portfolio, and investment decisions made in 2021/22.
- **2023 Prospectus**. Our annual call for proposals led by researchers external to BRANZ to provide research into specific areas of research need signalled in this Investment Portfolio Statement. The next Prospectus will be released in mid-2023.

These documents can be found on the BRANZ website. www.branz.co.nz

Investment signals

New research is sought for 2024/25 in areas of research need identified through our continual engagement, insight gathering and system scanning activities. We will also direct investment to complement ongoing research, as outlined in RE:INVEST.

1. Strengthening Aotearoa's built environment to better withstand our changing climate

Identifying needs, coordinating efforts and developing practical solutions are essential as building and construction system stakeholders across Aotearoa work to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

BRANZ Inc. will invest in research that addresses future challenges and/or provides practical solutions that can be implemented in the following areas:

- Adapting the built environment as a system to withstand the impacts of the changing climate.
- Adaption and mitigation for different building typologies and the changing needs for building product performance.
- Adapting as the industry faces an increasing combination of climate-related hazards, acknowledging the differences in regional, community, and cultural needs.

2. Adapting Aotearoa's built environment to better meet the needs and wants of Aotearoa's diverse population

BRANZ Inc. will invest in research that takes a long-term focus, and begins to provide practical solutions in the following areas:

- How people's needs and wants influence accessibility for building typologies, i.e. access and use across physical, social, cultural and cognitive requirements.
- The relationship between the built environment (and its amenities) and societal/workforce participation, and how the built environment can support social, cultural and inclusion aspirations. Research should involve a wide range of stakeholders, including decision-makers and influencers to enable change.
- Tangible pathways to housing affordability that are culturally appropriate and accessible across a range of typologies. This could include tenure, economic factors, such as the perceived trade-off between improvements and affordability, or the effects of planning on affordability. Research could include pilots or trials, action research or evaluation of existing pathways. Research can also include reducing the costs of housing development.

3. Continuing portfolio research programmes that address areas of need for New Zealanders

The portfolio research programmes are:



When reviewing progress against programme objectives, programme leaders are encouraged to:

- Focus on activities that accelerate the uptake and usage of the entire programme's outputs (existing and new), support relevant players to leverage outputs and create enduring behaviour change.
- Engage stakeholders by working in partnership (for example, through access to resources or funding) to enhance the capacity and capability to achieve programme objectives.

4. Accelerating system transformation research on high-performance homes

BRANZ Inc. will invest in research that helps address identified system needs. Research will be sought directly by the System Transformation Group on:

- Defining high-performance homes and creating a shared understanding of technical specifications in Aotearoa.
- Shifting mindsets around understanding and valuing high-performance homes.

5. Investing to tackle emerging system needs

Research needs are identified through ongoing research activities and valuable insights from stakeholder engagement.

BRANZ Inc. will consider new proposals where there is:

- Demonstrated industry need and co-design to influence change. This includes scoping to develop evidence around emerging issues, or support the resolution of known issues; or
- Trials or tests of interventions to create change in the building system.

6. Sharing knowledge with decision-makers, industry, and the wider public

BRANZ Inc. is committed to turning research findings into actionable knowledge that responds to industry needs. BRANZ ensures this knowledge is accessible by sharing across multiple channels.

Research proposals for knowledge sharing activities should:

- Have, or be developing, a strong focus on behaviour change.
- Demonstrate ongoing value for continued support. This includes evidence around ongoing or changing needs, use or demand. This should include self-assessment against agreed targets and external feedback to demonstrate need.
- Consider (and where appropriate, demonstrate) BRANZ commitment to audience accessibility needs.

New activities will be considered where they demonstrate that stakeholders have been actively involved in co-development and are committed to driving behaviour change.

7. Investing in key enabling activities

Core activities support our understanding of the building system. BRANZ Inc. invests in long-term activities and longitudinal studies, such as the House Condition Survey, weathering sites to support durability related research, and large-scale testing facilities, including fire research.

- 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.
- Investment in new activities will be considered where they demonstrate that they are needed to support existing research or ongoing issues.



Research expectations

Our expectations for those responding to Levy investment signals.

BRANZ is focused on ensuring New Zealand has a building system that delivers better outcomes for all New Zealanders. Transformation of Aotearoa New Zealand's building system requires practical, collaborative solutions.

Systems thinking

BRANZ is using systems thinking to tackle the complex issues facing the building and construction sector. System thinking recognises that many issues faced by the industry are long-standing, supported by entrenched views, beliefs, and behaviours. Changing the system will require many individuals, groups, and organisations across the building system to embrace new approaches.

To help ensure our research investment will contribute to meaningful system transformation, Researchers need to consider whether their proposal:

- Identifies systemic issues
- Grows understanding about a complex system issue
- Encourages system-wide improvement
- Informs solutions designed to drive behavioural change

Proposals should clearly describe:

- The system challenge, need or issue the proposal will help address
- How the research proposed helps understand or resolve the issue
- The key system stakeholders to co-design and be engaged in the research and why
- The anticipated impact or behaviour change from the research

Behaviour change

We invest in research that is practical and drives positive behaviour change.

Proposals should:

- Be co-designed with other stakeholders in the system to help bring about behaviour change. Proposals must demonstrate the effort made to effectively involve stakeholders, proportionate with the nature of the research to be undertaken.
- Describe expected pathways to deliver impact, including (if the research is successful) what a solution may look like and how this might be assessed in future.

Proposals should identify and provide evidence of:

- Who has been involved in identifying the need for the research
- Who will be involved over the duration of the project
- Who will ensure uptake of research and/or solutions



- How stakeholders are supporting this research, and what time and/or other resources (funding, access to equipment, etc.) they are intending to provide
- Who will benefit from the research once it is completed, and how it will support behaviour change

Research excellence

We expect projects to have a commitment to excellence in research.

Proposals should identify and provide evidence, as appropriate, of:

- Methodology appropriate to addressing research questions and behaviour change
- Multi-disciplinary teams that demonstrate cross-organisational collaboration
- Leveraging and co-ordinating with other research or related activities in New Zealand and overseas
- Clear channels to share research insight
- How the research may lead to impact, and a proposed pathway to achieve this. This may not always be a linear path from the researchers undertaking the research to the findings being implemented by others
- How our new BRANZ research facilities are being utilised in the research, where applicable.



BRANZ continues to focus on helping grow the building and construction system that meets the needs of all New Zealanders. As part of this journey, BRANZ is working to bring Te Ao Māori into our research, our ways of working and the way we invest the Levy. These concepts will be increasingly visible in future investment signals. In the interim, we encourage the inclusion of Te Ao Māori concepts in proposals.

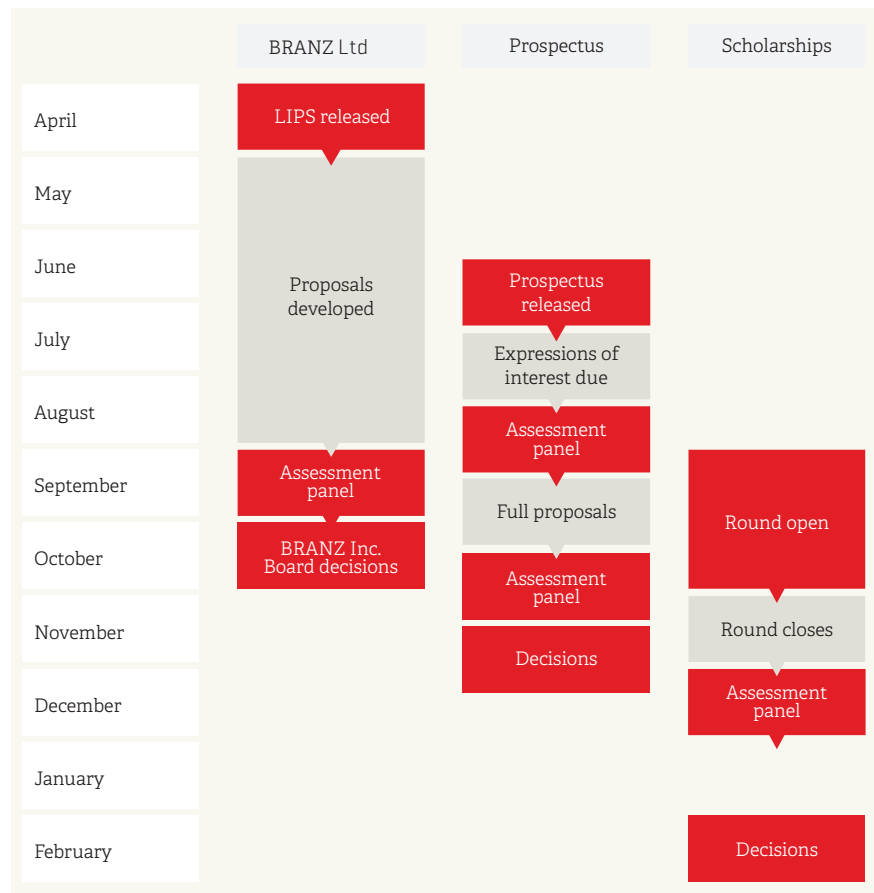
Working together

Collaboration is at the heart of our work to ensure the successful, sustainable transformation of both the built environment and the building and construction system.

We are committed to enduring collaboration with a range of research providers. We will continue to listen, learn and share information, expertise and research to explore new ideas and find practical solutions.

Our annual investment schedule is:

Investment schedule



If you are interested in finding out more, please visit our website www.branz.co.nz/investing-research.

For any questions, you are welcome to contact us at researchinvestment@branz.org.nz.

For more information, please get in touch:

branz.co.nz | researchinvestment@branz.org.nz



BRANZ Inc.

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

» branz.co.nz