

BOINZ Symposium 2025 (Provisional Programme 6th March 2025)

25 th May 2025 - Day 0 – Sunday – Welcome Function	
5.30pm	Welcome Function
7.30pm	Function Ends – Dinner Options
26 th May2025 - Day 1 – Monday – Symposium & Field Trips	
7.30am	Registration & Expo Opens
9.00am	Opening Keynote (TBC)
9.20am	BRANZ – Topic TBC
9.45am	Current Government Policies - <i>Charlotta Harpur – Rice Speir</i> “Collaborating for the Future” the importance of minimising risk through collaboration and working together. There are several new government policies under development some of which have already been consulted. These will impact on BCAs legal risks and challenges and risk potential for owners and occupiers. The government says that it is committed to removing regulatory barriers and making it faster, cheaper, and easier for Kiwi families to build the healthy, safe and durable homes. But their focus on de-regulation presents several risks and challenges, not just to BCAs. Councils and accredited organisations such as BOINZ have supported relevant and appropriate legislation and developed training programmes ensuing ongoing professional development of building surveyors. Can we say the same for LBPs? Where will the risk lie when things go wrong? Will councils be protected from liability if they get involved at any stage of the build? What powers and responsibilities will councils have if they become aware of poor work? Drawing on experience including conversations across a range of stakeholders this session will provide exposures and opportunities in what we anticipate will be an interactive session.
10.25am	Criminal liability for issuing producer statements – The new landscape - <i>Nathan Speir – MC</i> The Court of Appeal in Solicitor-General’s Reference (No 1 of 2022) [2024] NZCA 514 has confirmed that authors of Producer Statements can be criminally liable under s 40 of the Building Act 2004. What does this mean for building officials and how will this impact the industry? Nathan Speir has been with this case from the outset and looks forward to sharing tips and tricks for successfully prosecuting a Producer Statement author under the BA04. Join Nathan and another member of his team for an interactive session on the art of prosecuting engineers and what might be the future of regulatory compliance and enforcement in Aotearoa.
10.55am	Morning Tea
11.25am Breakouts	Technical Sessions / Innovation / Design & Safety Understanding British Standard 8102 – “Protection of Below” - <i>Chris Ross – Allco</i> This presentation explores the key updates and practical applications of British Standard 8102:2022, with a focus on its relevance to Building Surveyors and Building Control Officers (BCOs). The presentation will address the common causes of waterproofing failures, such as poor workmanship, inappropriate material selection, and insufficient design information, which have historically led to the need for remediation in basement projects. Key topics include updated waterproofing types (Type A, B, and C systems), improved design, buildability and repairability, and site evaluation techniques to account for climate change, ground gases, and flooding risks. New Zealand Geotechnical Database (NZGD) – <i>Tony Kao (MBIE) & Marie Claude Hebert (Christchurch City Council)</i> The New Zealand Geotechnical Database (NZGD) is a valuable tool to improve productivity and performance in the building and construction sector. Eleven years after its inception as the Canterbury Geotechnical Database, the nationwide NZGD now contains over 183,000 geotechnical records. The NZGD has served over ten thousand unique users in the science, engineering, government, insurance, and research sectors. This presentation aims to provide insights into the opportunities of using NZGD for the purpose of Building Control, spark discussions on the future enhancements that may provide efficiency to Building Consent Authorities (BCA’s) or Territorial Authorities (TA’s). The presentation will foster knowledge sharing among BCAs and TAs and inspire new approaches to harness nationwide big datasets to drive efficiencies in building control. Full Scale seismic testing of timber and hybrid structures - <i>Daniel Scheibmair</i> Presentation on full-scale (up to 10 storey) seismic shake table testing and product development to provide safe timber and timber hybrid structures. Including how some of these overseas products and their design/load data and third party verification are applicable to (or not) NZ and what BCOs should be looking out for to ensure compliance with NZ’s Building Code and requirements is met.
11.55am Breakouts	Beyond the Signature – The Engineering Behind MiTek’s PS1 You see the PS1. But do you know what goes into it? As a building inspector or consent processor, you rely on PS1 documents to confirm compliance—But how can you be sure of what’s behind that signature? At MiTek, delivering a PS1 isn’t just about paperwork. It’s about ensuring structural integrity, code compliance and reliability through a system built on engineering expertise, rigorous testing and advanced software solutions. Every PS1 MiTek issue is backed by high standards - so you can review documentation with confidence. The ABC’s of Design with Barrier Free - <i>Katie Bourke – Barrier Free</i> Design is a powerful tool that shapes our built environment, the spaces we play in, and the places we work. It affects our daily experiences and impacts the wellbeing of individuals and communities. In this presentation, we will explore the fundamental principles of design through the lens of the Barrier Free ABC’s: A for Accessibility, B for Better Understanding, and C for Collaboration. By integrating these core principles, barrier free design becomes a tool for positive change, improving how we interact with our environments and one another. Join us as we delve into what accessibility truly means and explore how it goes beyond compliance to embrace inclusivity for all. Learn about the human impact of design choices, and understand how they can foster well-being, safety, and equity. External Insulation - <i>Shawn Mclsaac – Oculus</i> External insulation (or ‘Out-sulation’) is a fairly recent introduction to NZ but growing exponentially. This presentation will cover the basic material types and properties, how these systems are installed, benefits and risks of this approach and what compliance questions may be relevant.
12.25pm Breakouts	Enabling a Climate Aligned built environment: Leveraging transparent, trustworthy and verifiable data from across the value chain, as well as a brief overview of the proposed Australian National Product register - <i>Neil Savery – ICC</i> Many actions are being taken to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, embodied carbon, and other environmental impacts associated with the materials and products used in construction, and the re-use and demolition of buildings. In parallel, many organisations and industry associations have made commitments and adopted policies to reduce their climate impact. Standards Australia and International Code Council have announced a Global Partnership to support development of a “Universal Data Protocol” (UDP) that will enable the transparent and verifiable exchange of data for effective reporting and compliance across the building industry. Future-Ready Compliance – <i>Ryan Cooper</i> Ensuring safety in the built environment requires more than compliance—it demands clarity, accessibility, and collaboration. This presentation examines how improving the quality and availability of information on compliance schedules can enhance safety outcomes while fostering collaboration among stakeholders. By leveraging modern tools and methods, we can create systems that are not only efficient but also user-centric and future-proof. Through real-world examples, attendees will discover innovative strategies to bridge information gaps and create a more informed, proactive approach to compliance. This session presents actionable insights that empower stakeholders to work together in building safer, smarter, and more sustainable environments Retrofit Wall Insulation - <i>Wade Maurice – Safe R Insulation</i> This session will outline the latest retrofit wall insulation system developments, best practice and provide valuable insights for Building Control Officers on key considerations when consenting this type of product.
12.55pm	Lunch
1.55pm	Preparing for determinations, trials and mediations - <i>Frana Divich</i> Have you had to prepare for determinations, trials or mediations? Each process requires a different focus. Frana will discuss the purpose of each and how to prepare to maximise the impact of your contribution.
2.25pm	Learnings from Fire - <i>James Firestone</i> James will unpack/illustrate several real-life tragedies to explain why fire compliance is vital for safeguarding occupants from fires in a building. Examples will include Grenfell Tower, MGM Grand Hotel, Coconut Grove Night club. From these tragedies presenting a clear understanding of the three elements for governing fire safety. Automatic (timely) Detection and Warning, Protection to the Means Of Escape, a practised Evacuation Plan
3.00pm	Site Visits
	Town Hall

	Join us for a fascinating journey through the heart of Christchurch's architectural history! The Christchurch Town Hall, originally opened in 1972, and was severely damaged, leading to its closure after the Christchurch Earthquakes in 2011. However, thanks to a visionary decision by the Christchurch City Council, the Town Hall was fully restored as part of the development of the new Performing Arts Precinct. The iconic Auditorium, James Hay Theatre, Limes Room, and entrance foyer were meticulously preserved, reopening to the public in 2019.
	Court Theatre Explore Christchurch's newest-old theatre. The Court Theatre company was founded over 50 years ago and was relocated to The Shed temporarily after the Christchurch Earthquake. The new \$56 million theatre comprises a 377-seat main playhouse auditorium, a 120-150-seat studio theatre, front-of-house facilities and is a full production house, funded in partnership with Christchurch City Council. The venue features high levels of flexibility and deep integration of technical facilities.
	Christ Church Cathedral The reinstatement of Christ Church Cathedral is a multi-phase project and the first phase, known as the stabilisation phase was completed in March 2023. The stabilisation work included two key components: <i>global stabilisation</i> and <i>local stabilisation</i> . Global stabilisation focused on securing the major external steel frames and foundations that provide the primary support for the building, reducing the risk of collapse and preparing the Cathedral for further construction. Meanwhile, local stabilisation involved securing secondary support systems and protecting the Cathedral's heritage fabric. Don't miss this opportunity to explore this iconic symbol of Christchurch's heritage and resilience which has only recently been reopened for small groups of visitors.
	Parakiore Recreation and Sport Centre This new building opens later in 2025 and will be New Zealand's largest aquatic and indoor recreation venue, offering cutting-edge facilities for people of all ages and abilities. Parakiore will be the first in the country to harness the city's wastewater system to provide all of its heating – a groundbreaking approach that taps into the untapped thermal energy from everyday water usage. The building includes a 50m competition pool, a state-of-the-art Olympic Dive Pool, Gym, multiple indoor sports courts etc.
4.45pm	Networking Function – Dobson Foyer / Exhibition Hall
6.00pm	Dinner options

27 th May 2025 - Day 2 - Symposium & Awards Dinner	
7.30am	Registration & Expo Opens
8.30am	MC Welcome & Housekeeping
8.35am	Update on the Economy - Brad Olsen – Infometrics Leading economist Brad Olsen will deliver an informative and current perspective on New Zealand’s Economy.
9.05am	The Future of Building Inspections - Jeff Fahrensohn – Auckland Council The future may look very different for building inspections. Quality Assurance programs, remote video inspections, third party verifiers, self-certifying qualified constructors are the different methods of inspection we are starting to see in the industry now. In addition, the way we inspect is changing. Specialist tools such as door force gauges, dry film thickness meters, light meters etc are all becoming normal tools of the trade however there are also emerging technologies which will provide BCOs additional options which is will help reduce risk and provide robust compliance evidence
9.45am	Technology, AI and the Regulatory Environment - Tony Walls - Objective How technology is responding to fast changing regulatory environments and the need for IT solutions to keep pace with change. What skills are needed by users of the software since the system has touchpoints with many stakeholders in the process. How IT solutions can make lives easier for all users and ensures consistent, quality outputs and a source of truth. How the software can improve the industry as a whole and provide stronger outcomes for communities and accountability that builds trust in government.
10.25am	Morning Tea
11.05am	Environmental Impacts / Engineering / Innovation
Breakouts	Slip Impacted buildings – a case study in the use of subpart 6B - Jeremy Neven – Granite Ridge Consulting This unique case study of a dwelling that was impacted by the August 2022 weather event in Nelson provides a story in the use of sub part 6b of the BA04. From the initial response to obtaining warrants under the Search and Surveillance Act to the final decision to have the building removed, this case study covers all sections of the sub part and how they were implemented; many for the first time since the introduction of the provisions for buildings affected by an emergency. This study also provides an opportunity for BCAs to consider complex ownership issues, crown vesting and how the sections of the Act pertaining to dangerous and insanitary buildings fit into their decision-making for these types of buildings.
	Update from Engineering NZ – Strengthening CPeng Standards, Trust and Public Safety - Veronica Dessein & Paul Kirby – Engineering New Zealand In an era of increasing complexity and regulatory demands, Engineering New Zealand as the Registration Authority for Chartered Professional Engineer (CPEng) remains committed to enhancing the standards and integrity of the engineering profession. This presentation will provide an update on our recent activities and strategic initiatives aimed at supporting the engineering community and protecting the public. Key focus areas will include an overview of upcoming changes to the CPEng Rules, designed to align with evolving best practices and provide BCAs with enhanced specificity on the CPEng register to better meet your needs. Additionally, we will discuss initiatives to strengthen the complaints system, enabling a more robust process for addressing public concerns and maintaining trust in the profession. Join us to learn more about how these updates will shape the future of engineering regulation in New Zealand, enhance public safety, and contribute to a resilient, forward-looking industry.
	AI-Volution Project – Inka Gliesche-Humphris - Hutt City Council As part of its AI Strategy, Council has developed the AI-Volution Project focused on finding ways to integrate AI into Council’s everyday processes one of these looks at using ChatGPT for BWOE renewals to improve productivity and give time back enabling staff to focus on creative solutions, complex problem-solving, and more impactful work that benefits our community. Inka will also briefly touch on another two AI trials which are underway at HCC; Vetting of Building Consents and Front Counter Enquiry Assistant.
	Nothing New Earth Building 2025 and Beyond - Mike Farrell – NZS Committee Member Global history of Earth building which we have ruins over 12 000 years old and buildings that 100's of years old being lived in today. 1/3-1/2 the world’s population lives in earth buildings. History of early building in NZ -building with what is at your feet-earth building history NZ. Where the earth building standards came from and where we are today. Go through NZS4298 testing of earth/clay. Go through nzs4299 from foundations to roofs showing how the standard works.
11.35am	The electrification of local steelmaking - TBC – NZ Steel Carbon emissions associated with building products makes up 40% of global emissions, and steelmaking is a large contributor. The local steel manufacturer, NZ Steel, is installing an electric arc furnace set to begin commissioning late 2025. This is Aotearoa's single largest industrial decarbonisation project and will significantly reduce the embodied carbon in the built environment that does and will continue to use steel products. This talk explores the change and impact across NZ
	Defensible Decision-Making – Claire Troon – Ember Psychology In the Building Compliance industry, accountability is crucial. This presentation will provide an overview of the key skills and knowledge required to make decisions that can be justified and defended if challenged. A defensible decision-making framework will be provided to ensure effective recording of the decision-making process.
	Reporting embodied carbon of buildings - Katie Symons – MBIE Embodied carbon emissions of buildings are not regulated through requirements in the New Zealand building code, but there is a growing portion of the construction sector who are actively considering these emissions and making decisions during the building design and construction process to reduce them. In 2022 MBIE published a technical methodology for the assessment of these emissions and is supporting sector-led initiatives that enable voluntary action to reduce embodied emissions. These include improving access to carbon data for products and materials, providing clarity on how assessment tools should be used in New Zealand and piloting an online platform where embodied carbon data for buildings can be shared. This session will explore how BCAs could interact and engage with these initiatives, and how they could inform the development of potential future government policy in this space.
12.05pm	The Future of Building Consent Authorities - Jayson Ellis – Timaru District Council As we move towards an uncertain future within the building regulatory environment, the need for BCAs to achieve collaboration has never been more important. The review of how building consent authorities perform their functions is at the forefront of the government's strategic plan and they have heard much from the construction sector. This begs the question, what are BCAs doing around the country that will achieve the government's objectives? Are we happy just to sit back allowing the change to happen to us, or, do we want to have control of our futures? Up until now BCAs in general, have been less than effective when it comes to sharing resources and any meaningful forms of collaboration. Jayson share a vision on how BCAs can effectively work together without the need for substantial legislative change, while retaining a level of autonomy. The time is now for BCAs to become influential in an environment that we are the guardians of!
12.35pm	Earthquakes, wars and recovery – Lessons from Pakistan to Vanuatu – Jitendra Bothara - ResiPro International Engineering Jitendra Bothara specializes in seismic issues and disaster needs assessment. With experience in New Zealand and internationally, he has contributed to disaster response efforts in NZ and regions such as Pakistan and Syria. In this presentation, he explores the complexities of disaster management, how to address the issues with limited resources, developing effective methodologies and making informed decisions today that shape the resilience and recovery of communities for future decades.
12.35pm	Lunch
1.35pm	Finding Common Ground - Jehan Casinader Our world seems more polarised than ever - there are so many issues that pull us apart. How do we find common ground with people we disagree with? Award-winning journalist Jehan Casinader knows how to quickly build rapport with complete strangers. In our sector, there’s no shortage of issues that can cause friction and conflict in our day-to-day work. This session will give you new tools that help you to engage effectively with the people who matter to you.
2.10pm	How to Say “no” or “not good enough” – Panel discussion
2.40pm	Changes and what they mean for LBPs and BCAs - Mel Orange, BPB Change seems to be a constant in the building industry, and never more so than now. Changes to building consent systems and the Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP) regime mean more accountability and responsibility is or will be placed on LBPs . This presentation will focus on what those changes mean for LBPs and Building Consent Authorities, including how the Building Practitioners Board may approach any changes to its disciplinary powers.
3.10pm	Sovereign Citizens in the building space – legitimate movement or legal quackery? – Simon Waalkens - Rice Speir The sovereign citizen movement continues to cause challenges for local government. This presentation looks at the origins and development of the movement, how it can cause issues in the local government space, what to watch out for, how to deal with a sovereign citizen and how to respond based on recent case experiences.
3.30pm	Afternoon Tea
4.00pm	Momentum Monitor Sessions Short sharp information sessions presentations from sector experts – Topics TBC
4.20pm	A new Regulatory Instrument: The Building Product Specifications - Katie Symons – MBIE The Building Product Specification (BPS) is a proposed new regulatory instrument to be introduced in 2025. It is to streamline the way that building product standards are cited in the New Zealand building code system, reducing regulatory barriers to the use of building products that meet equivalent or better performance requirements to those cited in current compliance pathways. Development of the BPS is intended to strike the right balance between reducing costs and maintaining the current performance standards of the building code. This session will explore how the BPS is designed be used in consent applications and how the technical content of the BPS should be considered by BCAs.
4.50pm	End of Day 2
6.00pm	Pre-dinner Drinks

6.30pm	Awards Dinner
10.30pm	Dinner Finish