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Power in data and resilience

The pace of change in the world today is undeniable. Climate change continues to shape our environment, with events such as cyclones, hurricanes and flooding becoming increasingly common. Earthquakes remind us of the dynamic nature of our landscapes, while advancements in technology, including AI, open up new possibilities and challenges. These shifts ask us to rethink and adapt, ensuring we remain prepared for what lies ahead.

Aotearoa New Zealand's built environment, and indeed *Build* magazine, are responding. *Build* magazine is on its own transformational journey, moving towards becoming fully digital next year – a shift that will bring the benefits of more targeted, timely and engaging content.

As guest editor for this issue, I'm delighted to introduce our data and resilience features. BRANZ CEO Claire Falck emphasises the increasing importance of accurate data (page 6), which is reflected in the launch of BRANZ Build Insights. This online tool consolidates trusted data from across the sector, empowering businesses to make informed decisions and contributing to a stronger industry overall (page 44). Continuing with the data theme, we explore expert insights into how big data and advanced analytics are shaping smarter decision making for the future. There are also updates on AI's role in improving consent processes (page 50) and progress on the creation of a national carbon database to help designers prioritise low-carbon choices (page 55).

In the resilience feature, we showcase new tools and resources to support a more resilient built environment in the face of earthquakes and climate change. There's also plenty of practical advice on a range of topics, from warm roofs (page 26) to proposed changes to using overseas products (page 74) and consent requirements for small standalone dwellings (page 80).

It's a jam-packed issue – enjoy!

Ngā mihi nui

Rhys Hurd
BRANZ GM Communications, Engagement
and Channels