

BUILDING BETTER  
HOMES, TOWNS  
AND CITIES

Ko Ngā wā Kainga hei  
whakamāhorahora

## Message from the Chair



Kia ora koutou

It is some months since you have heard from the Building Better Homes, Towns and Cities (BBHTC) National Science Challenge. Silence has not meant a lack of activity though. We have been busy getting the Challenge into full operating mode.

Over the last half of 2016 and early 2017 we have:

- 1) established a Challenge Directorate led by Ruth Berry,
- 2) had six meetings of the Challenge Governance Group,
- 3) completed contracting for five of the six Strategic Research Areas (SRAs),
- 4) Begun our research programme
- 5) re-scoped the Maori housing SRA (now known as “Kainga taahi, kainga rua”) and begun a process whereby researchers and stakeholders co-create proposals that address an RfP for the SRA,
- 6) finalised the Challenge contract with MBIE and negotiated a range of Challenge KPIs,
- 7) commenced scoping an RfP for a contestable process that will invest around \$4.4 million in new research to be completed by July 2019,
- 8) booked a venue in Christchurch for the inaugural BBHTC conference (5-6 September) where research teams will report on progress with their research funded by the Challenge,
- 9) initiated an upgrade of the Challenge website to allow us to keep all those interested in the BBHTC NSC well-informed.

We elaborate briefly on each of these developments in this Newsletter. Now that we are fully operational as a Challenge we look forward to re-establishing links and to your on-going engagement with our activities.

Ngā mihi nui  
Richard Bedford  
May 2017



## Challenge news

### 1. The Challenge Directorate

The Challenge office has been established at our host BRANZ's campus at Judgeford north of Wellington.

Office staff include our Director, Ruth Berry, Gillian Benstead who provides part-time administration support and Jessica Hutchings who has joined us to run the Kāinga Tahī Kāinga Rua and the contestable investment processes; and to work with the Governance Group and our Maori researchers on our challenge structures and processes for providing advice and support to them (e.g. Kahui Maori).

Contact details for the Challenge Directorate at:

Ruth	Ruth.berry@branz.co.nz	(04) 238 1367	021 414 511
Gillian	Gillian.benstead@branz.co.nz	(04) 238 1377	021 976 909
General	NSCinfo@branz.co.nz		
website	<a href="http://www.buildingbetter.nz">www.buildingbetter.nz</a>		

Supporting the Director and Governance Group to manage our research programme are our Science Leadership Team:

Members	Organisation
Ruth Berry	Challenge
Arthur Grimes	Motu
Errol Haarhoff	University of Auckland
Ella Henry	AUT University
Simon Kingham	University of Canterbury
Kay Saville-Smith	CRESA
Suzanne Wilkinson	University of Auckland
Jo Buckner	Independent

There are two vacancies on the Science Leadership Team that will be confirmed once the contestable processes have been completed.



## 2. Governance Group meetings

The BBHTC Governance Group is meeting bi-monthly and has played a major role in reviewing and approving research contracts for delivering on the Challenge's Strategic Research Areas. Four of the contracts were signed by December 2016 and a fifth one was finalised in February 2017.

The Governance Group decided not to fund the SRA that had been originally scoped to address Maori housing issues but rather to seek new proposals that had been co-created by researchers and stakeholders. The re-scoped SRA, "Kainga tahi, kainga rua", is described briefly in section 4 below.

## 3. Contracted SRAs

Research teams, the Governance Group and the Challenge Directorate have put considerable effort into developing research programmes that align with the challenge vision, mission and objective and are consistent with the National Science Challenge principles of collaboration and co-creation. The five SRAs approved for funding to date span scales from the local/neighbourhood to the national. They are:

*Shaping Place: Future Neighbourhoods* (co-ordinators: Errol Haarhoff (University of Auckland), Ella Henry (AUT), contractor, University of Auckland)

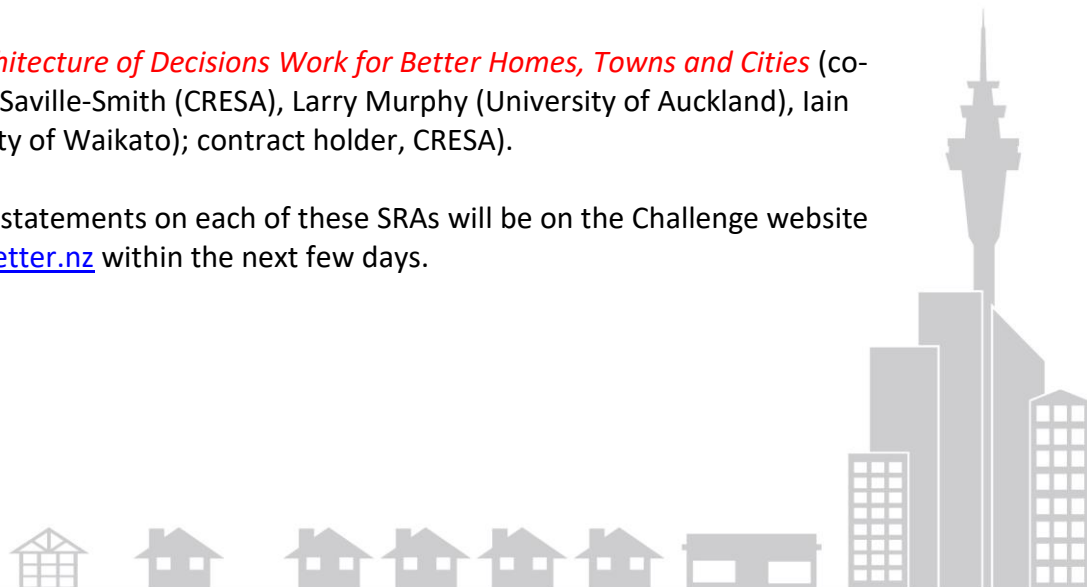
*Supporting Success in Regional Settlements* (co-ordinators: Arthur Grimes (Motu, Mike McKay (Lincoln) and Harvey Perkins (People and Places); contractor, Motu Economic Public Policy and Research)

*Transforming the Building Industry* (co-ordinators: Suzanne Wilkinson (University of Auckland), John Tookey (AUT), Casimir MacGregor (BRANZ); contractor, University of Auckland)

*Next Generation Information for Better Outcomes* (co-ordinators: Simon Kingham (University of Canterbury), Lyn Carter (University of Otago), Ioannis Delikostidis (University of Canterbury), Vivienne Ivory (Opus); contractor University of Canterbury)

*Making the Architecture of Decisions Work for Better Homes, Towns and Cities* (co-ordinators: Kay Saville-Smith (CRESA), Larry Murphy (University of Auckland), Iain White (University of Waikato); contract holder, CRESA).

Short summary statements on each of these SRAs will be on the Challenge website [www.buildingbetter.nz](http://www.buildingbetter.nz) within the next few days.



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## **4. Maori Housing – Kāinga Tahī Kāinga Rua Investment process**

We are currently in the process of investing in our final SRA Kāinga Tahī Kāinga Rua. The initial investment is focused on solutions for the greater Auckland area.

The Kāinga Tahī Kāinga Rua Strategic Research Area recognises the dual and complex nature of our Maori identities and the many communities we construct our lives in. Simply all Maori by whakapapa originate from a specific place, rohe, marae, kāinga but are more likely now to live at their Kāinga Rua in a city. Many Maori may consider their Kāinga Tahī being the city now and their Kāinga Rua their marae.

Once the investment process is completed the initial research programme for the challenge will be fully implemented. There will be opportunities for further investment in research addressing Maori housing issues in the forthcoming contestable round.

## **5. Challenge Contract and KPIs**

In February we completed sign off with MBIE on our KPI's and contract conditions for the second Contract Performance Agreement which covers funding through to June 2019. Progress towards meeting KPIs will be assessed across all Challenges by MBIE during 2018.

## **6. Contestable Funding Round**

The next stage for the challenge research programme is to undertake our contestable process. Through this process we will invest \$4.4M in research aligned to the challenge vision, mission and objective. The process will be open and will be consistent with the challenge principles of collaboration and co-creation. The Governance Group will finalise the RfP for the contestable process at its meeting on 23 May and the process for developing and submitting proposals will be announced by the end of May. It is anticipated that contracts for approved projects will be signed by the end of September at the latest with funding through to the end of June 2019.



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## **7. Challenge Conference, Christchurch 5-6 September**

The challenge conference will be held in Christchurch on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of September. The challenge conference will be the first occasion for all researchers receiving funding from the Challenge to gather together and report on their projects. The conference will also be an opportunity for interaction with members of the Science Leadership Team, the Independent Science Research Panel and the Governance Group. We anticipate that there will be a programme of stakeholder and public participation activities aligned with the conference.

## **8. Up-grading the Challenge Website**

We have recently completed some technical updates to the website which will enable us to provide updates and resources more easily and frequently. This is a work in progress so you will continue to see changes and enhancements over the next few months. Part of the website process include moving to an e-newsletter which you can sign up for on the challenge website [www.buildingbetter.nz](http://www.buildingbetter.nz)

Ngā mihi nui  
Ruth Berry  
Director

