



## **NZRAB Strategic Plan 2018 2021**

### **Introduction**

This Strategic Plan spans the period 2018 to 2021. It sets high level Benchmarks for Excellence for the NZRAB and, where required to achieve them, specific outputs for 2018 2019.

### **Background**

The New Zealand Registered Architects Board (NZRAB) is a statutory entity tasked by the Registered Architects Act 2005 (the Act) and the Registered Architects Rules 2006 (the Rules) with ensuring that Registered Architects are competent, so the public can rely on them.

In addition, the NZRAB has articulated a broader vision of how it contributes to architecture in New Zealand, as follows:

*The task of architecture is to lead the way in terms of what the built environment can and should be. This goes beyond designing for function, essential though that is. In so far as architecture articulates the national imagination, it contributes to nation building. If the built environment in New Zealand is the best that it can be, then it contributes to the realisation of this nation's potential.*

*The New Zealand Registered Architects Board determines who can be Registered Architects. In doing this, the NZRAB is mindful of the broader contribution to New Zealand that the profession makes.*

Overall, the NZRAB is successfully carrying out its statutory functions, which are, in summary, to:

- register architects and undertake continuing registration assessments
- maintain a register of architects
- investigate complaints
- provide the public with information about the registration system.

The NZRAB is also managing its finances prudently and meeting its reporting requirements.

### **Looking forward**

Possible trends that the NZRAB may need to be aware of include:

1. New Zealand changing demographically and culturally (noting New Zealand will change significantly in terms of demographics and culture in the medium term)
2. the political and regulatory environment changing (noting legislative changes spanning health and safety, procurement, and liability)
3. the role of the architect changing (noting increasing diversity in the way architecture takes place and changes in the business environment generally)
4. technology and science changing the building sector (noting potential disruptive impacts of Building Information Modelling (BIM), artificial intelligence, virtual reality technology impacting design, and cloud based services)

5. environmental, geopolitical and macro-economic risks and liabilities changing that impact on the built environment (noting the potential impact of international conflict, an economic downturn, climate change and expectations in regard to water and air quality)
6. design literacy and client expectations changing (noting increased public interest in building design in recent years)
7. the practice of architecture changing (noting the increasing complexity of contracts and documentation, and an increasing tendency to litigate).

### ***Benchmarks for Excellence and the Annual Plan***

The following are *Benchmarks for Excellence* for the NZRAB that the NZRAB Board has identified as those things that the Board either has or ought to achieve on an ongoing basis.

These are followed by issues that need to be addressed and outputs that need to be delivered in response during 2018/19.

### **Sector**

1. **Benchmark:** A work focus that contributes positively to the built environment in New Zealand

No specific issues or required outputs for 2018/19.

### **Governance**

2. **Benchmark:** Institutional arrangements that allow the NZRAB to work effectively and flexibly

**Issue:** The NZRAB is inhibited from operating as effectively as it would wish by section 56 of the Act which requires that Board committees always include at least two Board members and section 33(2) of the Schedule to the Act which limits the NZRAB Board's power to delegate its function.

**Output:** Continue to seek from the Government the repeal of section 56 of the Act and section 33(2) of the Schedule to the Act and the insertion of a definition of "building".

3. **Benchmark:** Board procedures that accord with best practice and good governance principles

**Issue:** The NZRAB Board needs to actively review its work as a governance board to ensure a high level of performance.

**Output:** NZRAB Board to undertake its annual assessment of its performance as a Board.

### **Initial Registration**

4. **Benchmark:** Applicable minimum standards for registration that are appropriate in terms of the public interest

**Issue:** As the practice of architecture evolves the minimum standards for registration and the way they are interpreted may need to evolve as well.

**Output:** Implement a procedure by which the NZRAB Board regularly reviews the practice of architecture and from that whether or not the minimum standard for registration continues to be appropriate.

5. **Benchmark:** A standard for recognised qualifications which ensures that graduates have the required skills, knowledge and attitude to progress to registration

**Issue:** The Australian and New Zealand degree accreditation procedure is being reformed.

**Output:** Implement the revised Architecture Accreditation Procedure in Australia and New Zealand.

6. **Benchmark:** Initial registration procedures which:
- a) ensure that those being registered for the first time meet the applicable minimum standards for registration with a high degree of consistency
  - b) are credible, efficient and fair
  - c) are not unnecessarily onerous or expensive.

**Issue A:** To maintain the credibility of the NZRAB's initial registration procedures, the process needs to be efficient and fair, and perceived as such by applicants.

**Output A:** Continue to survey registration applicants after their applications have been completed against a benchmark that at least 90 per cent of respondents perceive the Board's initial registration procedures as being credible, efficient and fair.

**Issue B:** Increasing specialisation and the way some practices are now organised is resulting in some potential registration applicants struggling to get the necessary breadth of professional experience

**Output B:** Complete an investigation into whether ways can be found to assist potential registration applicants better acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for registration where their architectural work is not exposing them to all aspects of the architectural process.

7. **Benchmark:** Information available to potential registration applicants explaining the NZRAB's initial registration requirements and procedures that is clear and accessible.

No specific issues or required outputs for 2018/19.

### **Continuing Registration**

8. **Benchmark:** Annual registration procedures and requirements that are efficient

No specific issues or required outputs for 2018/19

9. **Benchmark:** Competence Review procedures that are compliant, credible, efficient, effective and fair.

No specific issues or required outputs for 2018/19.

10. **Benchmark:** A Continuing Professional Development framework that is fit for purpose

**Issue:** The long-standing CPD framework has had an unintended consequence that the NZRAB is unable to ensure that architects do CPD covering issues that the NZRAB has identified as important for the profession.

**Output:** Investigate options for improving the effectiveness of the CPD framework.

11. **Benchmark:** A register that is fully compliant with the requirements of the Registered Architects Act 2005

No specific issues or required outputs for 2018/19.

### **Protection of Title**

12. **Benchmark:** Protection of title that is effective

No specific issues or required outputs for 2018/19.

### **Public Protection**

13. **Benchmark:** Complaints and discipline procedures that:
- a. accord with natural justice
  - b. are proportionate, cost effective and timely
  - c. assist the profession to perform better

**Issue:** The NZRAB's complaints and discipline procedures are costly to operate and as a result when architects are found wanting for relatively minor complaints they still face substantial and disproportionate costs

**Output:** Investigate options for changing the NZRAB complaints and discipline procedures so that minor complaints can be dealt with in a more proportionate and cost effect manner.

14. **Benchmark:** An Architects' Code of Ethical Conduct that is appropriate

No specific issues or required outputs for 2018/19.

### **Communications and International Liaison**

15. **Benchmark:** The NZRAB well connected with its New Zealand stakeholders

**Issue:** Social media plays an increasingly important role in corporate communications

**Output:** Explore options for extending the NZRAB's social media presence

16. **Benchmark:** The NZRAB well connected with its international stakeholders

No specific issues or required outputs for 2018/19.

### **Administration**

17. **Benchmark:** The NZRAB financially secure and well managed

No specific issues or required outputs for 2018/19.

18. **Benchmark:** The NZRAB organised efficiently and effectively in terms of its office and secretariat functions

No specific issues or required outputs for 2018/19.

19. **Benchmark:** Key-person and business recovery risks well managed

No specific issues or required outputs for 2018/19.

20. **Benchmark:** Information that is confidential held securely

**Issue:** Board documents downloaded onto the laptops and other devices of Board members, committee and panel members, and registration assessors are potentially not secure.

**Output:** Investigate more secure options for Board members, committee and panel members, and registration assessors to access board documents.

NB: “No specific issues or required outputs” means either that the “benchmark for excellence” has been achieved or work in that area is not a priority currently.