



In our second issue for 2017, we introduce our new board members, report on the renewal of the Building Consent Authority accreditation status, the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research's (NZIER) recent report findings showcasing the value of IANZ, and issues concerning cross-frontier accreditation.

## **1. Introducing our new Board Members**

Preparing for the future of IANZ, four new members have recently been appointed to the Accreditation Council by Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister Jacqui Dean. The new appointments bring the total number of members to seven.

New Council members include Ms Carolyn Harkess, who has over 20 years of business experience, runs her own consulting business and was previously director at MetService for six years; Dr Graeme Benny, a clinical biochemist and general manager at the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR); Peter Steel, who has 30 years of economic and engineering experience and is managing director of SMEC NZ Ltd (part of the international SMEC consultancy group), and consultant Richard Collin, a



strategic and operations adviser and former general manager of Horticulture for Kono Foods.

They join existing Chairperson Paul Connell, and members Ms Lindsey Lawton and John Boshier, who wish to welcome their new colleagues to the Council.

## **2. IANZ renew agreement with MBIE and BCAs**

Given the changes to Building Consent Authority regulations that came into effect in July, IANZ's contract with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and the Environment to provide BCAs with accreditation has been renewed for five years.

"We have already started implementing changes in relation to the updated regulations, and are pleased this agreement has been renewed," says IANZ CEO Dr Llew Richards.

To recap, the new rules set out the criteria and standards an organisation (including a local body) must meet in order to be accredited as a Building Consent Authority under the Building Act 2004.

These include specifying the qualifications BCA employees and contractors must have (or be working towards) if they are performing technical building control functions, requiring BCAs to notify IANZ and MBIE of certain specified matters, and establishing the fees payable for an accreditation application and audit.



## **3. NZIER report findings showcase the value of IANZ**

An independent investigation by the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research has clearly shown the crucial role IANZ plays in supporting the New Zealand economy.

Key findings of the report, which was completed in June this year, include:

- IANZ now facilitates \$27.6 billion of New Zealand's exports. Given the challenges of exporting from New Zealand, such as a lack of scale and distance to markets, Kiwi firms need to 'control the controllable' which is where IANZ comes in.



- One key area they *can* control is the quality of their products. Exporters need to be known and recognised overseas as delivering high-quality, safe goods and services to market. IANZ accreditation provides this ‘seal of approval’, which reduces exporters’ transaction costs and risks, and supports ongoing government and business efforts to lift the value-added from our exports.
- The additional value accreditation delivers to New Zealand exporters is also significant. If the 8% ‘accreditation price premium’ an overseas survey suggests exporters receive from accreditation were to be removed, it would cost accredited exporters around \$4.5 billion, and cause New Zealand’s GDP to drop by 0.63% or \$1.65 billion.
- IANZ is an important part of New Zealand’s ‘quality infrastructure’, and its accreditation activities allow New Zealand and overseas consumers and firms to buy accredited goods and services with confidence.
- IANZ also plays an important role in the domestic economy. Its accreditation services support industries accounting for \$35.8 billion of New Zealand’s GDP, and which employ almost 358,000 workers (17% of total employment).

#### 4. Issues concerning cross-frontier accreditation getting reviewed

IANZ CEO Dr Llew Richards recently attended the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) meeting in Frankfurt where new policies addressing competition were discussed.

Ensuring standards are consistently kept high when countries around the world have different laws and different ways of interpreting regulations can be tough. However, ILAC has now created a working group, with Dr Richards as convenor, to draft a new policy within one to two years to help combat duplication of accreditation between countries and their respective accreditation bodies.



“We want to make sure only competent people are always doing the job. Avoiding duplication of accreditation facilitates world trade by making it *easier* – that is our primary goal,” says Dr Richards.