
BRANZ'S WAVE PROGRAMME AND THE CHALLENGES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH IN BUILDING MOISTURE AND AIR QUALITY

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BRANZ's Weathertightness, Air quality and Ventilation Engineering (WAVE) programme began in 2009, with the aim of making our homes manage moisture and provide safe environments to live in.

The programme built on previous work in weathertightness and indoor air quality to provide a six year vision of where research should go in these areas. WAVE represents the single biggest research investment from the Building Research Levy and forms the backbone of the research within BRANZ's Building Performance group; generating several other research projects that would not be feasible were it not for the skills and facilities developed within the WAVE programme.

This paper presents an overview of the WAVE programme, including some of the successes and challenges faced, and debates the future of research post-WAVE. Future work is likely to examine the link between the built environment and occupant health and how to address the move from conventional low-rise residential construction to medium-rise, higher-density construction without repeating the weathertightness mistakes of the past. It is proposed that industry engagement is the key to the success of any future large scale research programme in the built environment.

A series of accompanying papers describe some aspects of WAVE research in more detail.

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