



# Conference Programme

**8.00am**      **Registration**

**8.30 am – 8.45 am**      **BUILDUP26 = PEOPLE + PERFORMANCE + PRODUCTIVITY**

Conference host Petra Bagust officially opens BuildUP26, framing the day's conversations around the interconnected pillars of people, performance, and productivity.

**Speaker:** Petra Bagust, Conference Host

**8.45 am – 9.05 am**      **Te Waihanga | NZ Infrastructure Commission  
Laying the Foundations for Confidence – The National Infrastructure Plan**

Andy Hagan from Te Waihanga introduces New Zealand's National Infrastructure Plan – charting a pathway that gives the industry confidence to invest in the people, technology, and equipment needed to deliver smarter, faster, and better.

**Speaker:** Andy Hagan, General Manager Investments, Te Waihanga

**9.05 am – 9.40 am**      **Local Keynote – PRODUCTIVITY LESSONS FROM NEW ZEALAND  
Cracking the Productivity Puzzle**

Chief Forecaster at Infometrics, Gareth Kiernan takes a hard look at New Zealand's construction productivity. He unpacks where we stand, what's holding us back, and what structural shifts could unlock a more productive and sustainable future for the sector.

**Speaker:** Gareth Kiernan, Chief Forecaster and Director, Infometrics

**9.40 am – 10.30 am**      **International Keynote – PRODUCTIVITY LEARNINGS FROM ABROAD, Sponsored by Hubexo**

James Pearce from global design firm Populous shares international perspectives on delivering complex projects more efficiently. Attendees will explore global best practices in productivity – and how these insights can fuel real change in the New Zealand context.

**Speaker:** James Pearce, Senior Principal, Populous Brisbane

**10.30 am – 11.00 am**      **Morning tea + Sponsor showcase**

**11.00 am – 11.45 am**      **Panel Discussion – THE PERFORMANCE EDGE, Sponsored by Kennards Hire  
Getting the Best on Every Build**

Performance starts with high-performing teams and projects – what defines them, and how they're built day-to-day on site through smarter planning, team dynamics, and resource use. This panel of frontline leaders shares practical insights on fostering accountability, boosting output with current tools, and preparing crews for the tech revolution coming next.

**Panel speakers:** Terry Buchan, General Manager Hawkins, Natalie Chapman, People and Performance Manager Cook Brothers, Sonia Muir, Group Design Manager Naylor Love, Jamie Summers, Project Director The Building Intelligence Group, Richard White, General Manager Kennards Hire.

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| 11.45 am – 12.30 pm   | <p><b>Keynote + Q&amp;A – PERFORMANCE FOCUS, Sponsored by Performance Technologies</b><br/> <b>Riding the Performance and Productivity Wave – or Facing a Tsunami?</b></p> <p>Jon Sinclair from Performance Technologies reveals how AI, robotics, automation and digital innovation, combined with human expertise, are transforming performance and productivity, with real examples and a glimpse of what's next for the industry.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Jon Sinclair, Performance Technologies</p>   |
| <p><b>12:30 pm – 1:15 pm Lunch + Sponsor showcase, sponsored by Winstone Wallboards (GIB)</b></p>   |   |
| 1:15 pm – 1:30 pm   | <p><b>Brian Dillon, Construction Growth Foundation</b></p> <p>Chief Executive Brian Dillon introduces the Construction Growth Foundation's ongoing work to upskill and empower the industry's workforce to meet the challenges of tomorrow.</p>   |
| <p><b>1:30 pm – 2:40 pm ROUNDTABLE Sessions, Sponsored by the Construction Growth Foundation</b></p> <p>Attendees will join focused, small-group conversations exploring practical ways to lift construction sector performance through better collaboration, digital tools (including AI and reality capture), workforce capability, mental health, and legal and commercial clarity.</p>  |   |
| 1:30 pm – 2:40 pm   | <p><b>MĀTĀTAHI Session for Next Generation Leaders</b></p> <p>Hosted by Building Institute Aotearoa Young Professional Advisors, this is a parallel session for the industry's next generation leaders.</p>   |
| <p><b>2.40pm – 3.10pm Afternoon tea + Sponsor showcase</b></p>  |   |
| 3:10 pm – 3:25 pm   | <p><b>Hon Chris Penk – Minister for Building and Construction</b><br/> <b>A National Vision for the Sector's Future</b></p> <p>Minister Penk shares the government's perspective on the state of the building and construction sector, outlining upcoming priorities and the collaborative role industry will play in shaping resilient built environments across Aotearoa.</p>   |
| 3:25 pm – 4:05 pm   | <p><b>Keynote – PEOPLE FOCUS, Sponsored by Sky Windows</b><br/> <b>Courage, Leadership and Legacy</b></p> <p>Janine Branje shares her deeply personal journey – merging her leadership in interior construction with a story of resilience and advocacy. This powerful keynote underscores the human side of high performance, reminding us that leadership often begins with vulnerability and purpose.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Janine Branje, General Manager Hush Interiors</p>   |
| 4:05 pm – 5:00 pm   | <p><b>Keynote – PEOPLE FOCUS, Sponsored by the NZIOB Charitable Education Trust</b><br/> <b>High Performance, Simplified</b></p> <p>James Laughlin, best-selling author of Habits of High Performers, reveals how high-performing teams and individuals thrive through clarity, consistency, and self-leadership. Attendees will walk away with actionable strategies for building habits that elevate both personal and organisational performance.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> James Laughlin, #1 Best-selling Author of Habits of High Performers</p> |
| <p><b>5.00 pm – 6:30 pm REFLECT, CONNECT AND CELEBRATE, Sponsored by Atlas Industries</b><br/> <b>Closing remarks + Social gathering</b></p> <p>BuildUP26 wraps up with closing reflections from the Chief Executive, followed by a relaxed social gathering – a chance to continue the conversations that will drive industry progress long after the day ends.</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Kirsten Magnusson, Chief Executive, Building Institute Aotearoa</p> |   |