



BRANZ Appraised
Appraisal No. 511 [2020]

WEATHERTEX DIRECT FIXED WEATHERBOARD CLADDING SYSTEMS

Appraisal No. 511 (2020).



BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of products for building and construction.



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BRANZ

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Product

- 1.1 Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems are external wall cladding systems for residential and light commercial type buildings where domestic construction techniques are used.
- 1.2 The systems consist of horizontally fixed Weathertex Selflok and Primelok weatherboards, flashings and accessories fixed directly to external wall framing.

Scope

- 2.1 Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems have been appraised as external horizontally fixed wall cladding systems to timber framed buildings within the following scope:
 - the scope limitations of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 1.1; and,
 - with a risk score of 0-6, calculated in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 2; and,
 - situated in NZS 3604 Wind Zones up to, and including, Very High.
- 2.2 Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems must only be installed horizontally on vertical surfaces.
- 2.3 Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems are appraised for use with aluminium window and door joinery that is installed with vertical jambs and horizontal heads and sills. [The Appraisal of Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems relies on the joinery meeting the requirements of NZS 4211 for the relevant Wind Zone.]

Building Regulations

New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

- 3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems, if designed, used, installed and maintained in accordance with the statements and conditions of this Appraisal, will meet the following provisions of the NZBC:
 - Clause B1 STRUCTURE:** Performance B1.3.1, B1.3.2 and B1.3.4. Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems meet the requirement for loads arising from self-weight, earthquake, wind, impact and creep [i.e. B1.3.3 (a), (f), (h), (j) and (q)]. See Paragraphs 9.1 – 9.3.
 - Clause B2 DURABILITY:** Performance B2.3.1(b), 15 years, B2.3.1(c) 5 years and B2.3.2. Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems meet these requirements. See Paragraph 10.1.
 - Clause E2 EXTERNAL MOISTURE:** Performance E2.3.2. Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems meet this requirement. See Paragraphs 14.1 -14.3.
 - Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS:** Performance F2.3.1. Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems meet this requirement and will not present a health hazard to people.

Technical Specification

4.1 System components and accessories supplied by WeatherTex Pty Ltd are as follows:

WeatherTex Weatherboards

- WeatherTex weatherboards are 9.5 mm thick planks cut from exterior-grade wood fibre-based [hardboard] panels. The wood fibres are obtained from selected Australian hardwoods. The fibres are pre-treated with steam under pressure and are then bonded together, using natural lignins present in the fibres. The weatherboards contain a waterproofing agent to minimise moisture absorption. WeatherTex weatherboards are produced with a smooth or textured [Ruff-Sawn and Woodsman] front face. A variety of profiles are also available. WeatherTex weatherboards are primed on all surfaces and edges. The weatherboards are nominally 3660 mm in length with various widths, dependent on the profile.
- WeatherTex Selflok weatherboards are profiled with an interlocking lap joint on the top and bottom edges. Selflok weatherboards are available in various surface finishes and profiles. Refer to Table 1.
- WeatherTex Primelok weatherboards incorporate a Primelok Aligning Spline at the rear of the board for faster installation, greater accuracy and concealed fixing. Refer to Table 2 for available profiles and finishes.

Table 1: Selflok Weatherboard Sizes and Profiles/Finishes

Selflok Profile	Dimensions [mm]	Smooth	Ruff-Sawn	Woodsman
Millwood	3660 x 300	✓	✓	
Old Colonial	3660 x 300	✓		
Ecogroove 150	3660 x 300	✓		✓
Ecogroove 300	3660 x 300	✓		✓

Table 2: Primelok Weatherboard Sizes and Profiles/Finishes

Primelok Profile	Dimensions [mm]	Smooth	Ruff-Sawn	Woodsman
Primelok 200	3660 x 200	✓	✓	✓
Federation	3660 x 170	✓	✓	
Shadowood	3660 x 170	✓		

Accessories

- WeatherTex joiners – Traditional Off-Stud (for Primelok 200), Federation, Shadowood, Millwood, Old Colonial, Ecogroove 150 and 300 plastic joiners to suit weatherboard profiles/texture.
 - Primelok Starter Strip – folded coil coated steel profile available in 1830 mm lengths.
 - Large Cavity Closer – folded coil coated steel closer 20 mm wide x 1830 mm long.
 - Aluminium Corners – Internal LF Corner [Small], External LF Corner [Small], Internal 'W' Corners [Small and Large], External Box Corners [Small and Large]. Supplied in 3660 mm lengths.
 - Corner Plugs – large and small corner plugs for Traditional Large and Small Aluminium Corner.
 - Aluminium Stop Ends – Small and Large aluminium stop-ends supplied in 3660 mm lengths.
 - Long Vertical Aluminium Joiner – for Selflok weatherboards, supplied in 3660 mm lengths.
- 4.2 Accessories used with WeatherTex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems which are supplied by the building contractor are:

Weatherboard Fixings

- Primelok weatherboard fixings [timber frame] – 45 x 2.5 mm or 50 x 2.8 mm hot-dip galvanised, or stainless-steel ring-shank, flat-head nails.
- Selflok weatherboard fixings [timber frame] – 45 x 2.5 mm hot-dip galvanised or stainless-steel ring-shank, flat-head nails, or ND50 Bradnail 50 x 2 mm stainless steel brads.
- [Note: Hot-dip galvanising must comply with AS/NZS 4680.]

Ancillary Items

- Flexible wall underlay – building paper complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 Table 23, or breather-type membranes covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal for use as wall underlays.
- Flexible sill and jamb flashing tape – flexible flashing tapes complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 Paragraph 4.3.11, or flexible flashing tapes covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal for use around window and door joinery openings.
- Back flashings – folded from aluminium or galvanised steel. Refer to NZS 3604, Section 4 and NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 20 for durability requirements.
- Window and door trim cavity air seal – air seals complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 Paragraph 9.1.6, or self-expanding, moisture cure polyurethane foam air seals covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal suitable for use around window, door and other wall penetration openings.
- Joinery head flashings – as supplied by the joinery manufacturer or contractor.
- Flexible sealant – sealant complying with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, or sealant covered by a valid BRANZ Appraisal for use as a weather sealing sealant for exterior use.

Paint System Specification

- 4.3 All exposed faces, including top edges at sills and all bottom edges of Weathertex weatherboards must be finished with at least two coats of an exterior grade latex acrylic or exterior solvent-based [enamel] paint within 60 days of fixing. Paint systems are not supplied by Weathertex Pty Ltd and have not been assessed by BRANZ and are therefore outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 4.4 Latex acrylic exterior paint systems must comply with any of Parts 7, 8, 9 or 10 of AS 3730. Allow the recommended drying time between coats and temperature limitations for application. For solvent based finishes, one coat of solvent based undercoat must be applied directly over the primed weatherboard surface. Allow to dry for a minimum of 24 hours. Finish with two coats of gloss or semi-gloss exterior solvent-based paint.

Handling and Storage

- 5.1 Handling and storage of all materials supplied by Weathertex Pty Ltd or the building contractor, whether on site or off-site, is under the control of the building contractor. Weathertex weatherboards must be stacked flat, off the ground and supported on timber bearers spaced at maximum 600 mm centres. They must be kept dry at all times either by storing under cover or providing waterproof covers to the stack. Care must be taken to avoid damage to edges, ends and the primed surfaces. Weatherboards must always be carried on edge.
- 5.2 Accessories must be stored so they are kept clean, dry and undamaged. All accessories must be used within the maximum storage period recommended by the manufacturer.

Technical Literature

- 6.1 Refer to the Appraisals listing on the BRANZ website for details of the current Technical Literature for Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems. The Technical Literature must be read in conjunction with this Appraisal. All aspects of design, use, installation and maintenance contained in the Technical Literature and within the scope of this Appraisal must be followed.

Design Information

Framing

Timber Treatment

- 7.1 Timber wall framing behind Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems must be treated as required by NZBC Acceptable Solution B2/AS1.

Timber Framing

- 7.2 Timber framing must comply with NZS 3604 for buildings or parts of buildings within the scope limitations of NZS 3604. Buildings or parts of buildings outside the scope of NZS 3604 must be to a specific design in accordance with NZS 3603 and AS/NZS 1170. Where specific design is required, the framing must be of at least equivalent stiffness to the framing provisions of NZS 3604. In all cases studs must be at maximum 600 mm centres. Dwangs must be fitted flush between the studs at maximum 750 mm centres.
- 7.3 Timber wall framing behind where weatherboards are joined over a stud must be nominal 50 mm thickness [i.e. 45 mm minimum finished thickness].
- 7.4 Timber framing must have a maximum moisture content of 24% at the time of the cladding application. [Note: If Weathertex weatherboards are fixed to framing with a moisture content of greater than 24% problems may occur at a later date due to excessive timber shrinkage.]
- 7.5 Timber wall framing must have a maximum moisture content of 18% before the weatherboards are painted.

General

- 8.1 The ground clearance to finished floor levels as set out in NZS 3604 must be adhered to at all times. At ground level paved surfaces, such as footpaths, must be kept clear of the bottom edge of the cladding system by a minimum of 100 mm, and unpaved surfaces by 175 mm in accordance with the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 18.
- 8.2 At roof/wall junctions, the bottom edge of Weathertex Cavity Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems must be kept above the top surface of any adjacent roof flashing by a minimum of 70 mm. [Note: This clearance is a requirement of Weathertex Pty Ltd and exceeds the minimum clearance specified in NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.3].
- 8.3 All external walls of buildings must have barriers to airflow in the form of interior linings with all joints stopped for wind zones up to and including Very High. Unlined gables and walls must incorporate a rigid sheathing or an air barrier which meets the requirements of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Table 23. For attached garages, wall underlays must be selected in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1, Paragraph 9.1.3.4. Where rigid underlays are used, the fixing lengths must be increased by a minimum of the thickness of the underlay.
- 8.4 Where the system abuts other cladding systems, designers must detail the junction to meet their own requirements and the performance requirements of the NZBC. Details not included within the Technical Literature have not been assessed and are outside the scope of this Appraisal.

Structure

Mass

- 9.1 The mass of Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems is approximately 10.4 kg/m² at equilibrium moisture content. The system is therefore considered a light wall cladding in terms of NZS 3604 and NASH Standard Part 2.

Impact Resistance

- 9.2 WeatherTex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems have good resistance to impact loads likely to be encountered in normal residential use. The likelihood of impact damage to the system when used in light commercial situations should be considered at the design stage, and appropriate protection such as the installation of bollards and barriers should be considered for vulnerable areas.

Wind Zones

- 9.3 WeatherTex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems are suitable for use in NZS 3604 defined Wind Zones up to, and including, Very High.

Durability

- 10.1 WeatherTex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems meet the performance requirements of NZBC Clause B2.3.1 (b), 15 years for the WeatherTex weatherboards and flashings, and the performance requirements of NZBC Clause B2.3.1 (c), 5 years for the exterior paint system.

Serviceable Life

- 10.2 WeatherTex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding System installations are expected to have a serviceable life of at least 20 years provided the system is maintained in accordance with this Appraisal, and the WeatherTex weatherboards and fixings are continuously protected by a weathertight coating and remain dry in service. WeatherTex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems must be painted within 60 days of fixing.
- 10.3 Microclimatic conditions, including geothermal hot spots, industrial contamination and corrosive atmospheres, and contamination from agricultural chemicals or fertilisers can convert mildly corrosive atmosphere into aggressive environments for fasteners. The fixing of WeatherTex weatherboards and accessories in areas subject to microclimatic conditions requires specific design in accordance with NZS 3604 Paragraph 4.2.4 and is outside the scope of this Appraisal.

Maintenance

- 11.1 Regular maintenance is essential to ensure the performance requirements of the NZBC are continually met and to ensure the maximum serviceability of the system.
- 11.2 Regular cleaning (at least annually) of the paint coating is required to remove grime, dirt and organic growth and to maximise the life and appearance of the coating. Grime may be removed by brushing with a soft brush, warm water and detergent. Paint systems must be recoated at approximately 5 – 8 yearly intervals in accordance with the paint manufacturer's instructions.
- 11.3 Annual inspections must be made to ensure that all aspects of the cladding system, including the paint coating system, flashings and any sealed joints remain in a weatherproof condition. Any damaged areas or areas showing signs of deterioration which would allow water ingress must be repaired immediately. Sealant and paint coatings must be repaired in accordance with the relevant manufacturer's instructions.
- 11.4 Minimum ground clearances as set out in this Appraisal and the Technical Literature must be maintained at all times during the life of the system. [Failure to adhere to the minimum ground clearances given in this Appraisal and the Technical Literature will adversely affect the long-term durability of WeatherTex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems.]

Control of External Fire Spread

Vertical Fire Spread

- 12.1 This Appraisal only covers buildings 10 m or less in height. NZBC Functional Requirement C3.2 identifies that external vertical fire spread to upper floors only needs be considered for buildings with a building height greater than 10 m. Control of external vertical fire spread is therefore outside the scope of this Appraisal.

Horizontal Fire Spread

- 12.2 Weathertex Weatherboard Direct Fixed Cladding Systems have not been assessed for a peak heat release or total heat released rating and therefore cannot be used within 1m of the relevant boundary or Risk Group SI Buildings.
- 12.3 Refer to NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 and C/AS2 and Verification Method C/VM2 for fire resistance rating and control of external fire spread requirements for external walls.

Prevention of Fire Occuring

- 13.1 Separation or protection must be provided to Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems from heat sources such as fire places, heating appliances, flues and chimneys. Part 7 of NZBC Acceptable Solutions C/AS1 – C/AS2 and NZBC Verification Method C/VM1 provide methods for separation and protection of combustible materials from heat sources.

External Moisture

- 14.1 Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems, when installed in accordance with this Appraisal and the Technical Literature will prevent the penetration of moisture that could cause undue dampness or damage to building elements.
- 14.2 Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems allow excess moisture present at the completion of construction to be dissipated without permanent damage to building elements to meet code compliance with Clause E2.3.6.
- 14.3 The details given in the Technical Literature for weather sealing are based on the principle of having a first and second line of defence against moisture entry for all joints, penetrations and junctions. The ingress of moisture must be excluded by detailing joinery and wall interfaces as shown in the Technical Literature. Weathertightness details that are developed by the designer are outside the scope of this Appraisal and are the responsibility of the designer for compliance with the NZBC.

Internal Moisture

Water Vapour

- 15.1 Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems are not a barrier to the passage of water vapour, and when installed in accordance with this Appraisal will not create a risk of moisture damage resulting from condensation.

Installation Information

Installation Skill Level Requirements

- 16.1 Installation must be carried out in accordance with the Technical Literature and this Appraisal by, or under the supervision of, a Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP) with the relevant License Class.

System Installation

Wall Underlay and Flexible Sill and Jamb Tape Installation

- 17.1 The selected wall underlay and flexible sill and jamb tape system must be installed by the building contractor in accordance with the underlay and tape manufacturer's instructions prior to the installation of the rest of the Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding System. Flexible building underlay must be installed horizontally and be continuous around corners. Underlay must be lapped 75mm minimum at horizontal joints and 150mm minimum over studs at vertical joints. Generic rigid sheathing materials must be installed in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 and be overlaid with a flexible wall underlay. Proprietary systems shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Particular attention must be paid to the installation of the building underlay and sill and jamb tapes around window and door openings to ensure a continuous seal is achieved and all exposed wall framing in the opening is protected.



Weathertex Cladding System Installation

- 17.2 Weathertex weatherboards may be cut on site by power saw. Holes and cut-outs may be formed by drilling a number of holes around the perimeter of the opening required and tapping out the centre with a hammer, or by using a hole saw.
- 17.3 Weathertex weatherboards must be kept dry prior to installation. Before the weatherboards are installed, cut edges, ends and holes must be sealed with a solvent based or tannin resistant acrylic primer.
- 17.4 Weathertex weatherboards must be installed starting at the bottom of the wall. A Primelok starter strip is used at the base of the wall to accept the first course of Primelok weatherboards. Before the weatherboards are installed, the corner detail must be prepared to suit the selected option, e.g. aluminium corners angles. The necessary flashings must be installed before commencing weatherboard fixing. The bottom course of weatherboards must overhang the bottom plate by a minimum of 50 mm.
- 17.5 Weathertex weatherboards are face fixed. Weathertex Primelok weatherboards are fixed by means of a hidden fixing method. The overlapping Primelok weatherboard, which is held in place by the plastic spline, covers the head of the fastener. Selflok weatherboards are fastened with a semi-concealed or face fix ('traditional') method.
- 17.6 Joints between weatherboards are made off-stud, with the joiner appropriate for the profile of weatherboard used. Ends are brought into moderate contact with the spacer nibs within the joiner. Selflok weatherboards can also be joined off-stud using the Long Vertical Aluminium Joiner with dwangs at maximum 600 mm centres to support the joiner.

Aluminium Joinery Installation

- 17.7 Aluminium joinery and associated head flashings must be installed by the building contractor in accordance with the Technical Literature. A 7.5 – 10 mm nominal gap must be left between the joinery reveal and the wall framing so a PEF rod and air seal can be installed after the joinery has been secured in place.

Finishing

- 17.8 The paint coating manufacturer's instructions must be followed at all times for application of the paint finish. Weathertex weatherboards must be clean and dry before commencing painting. It is recommended that light coloured paints are used in order to prevent solar heating of the cladding above 70° C. Weathertex Pty Ltd recommends using paint with a colour which has a Light Reflective Value [LRV] of greater than or equal to 40%.

Inspection

- 17.9 The Technical Literature must be referred to during the inspection of Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems installations.

Health and Safety

- 18.1 Cutting of Weathertex weatherboards must be carried out in well ventilated areas and a dust mask and eye protection must be worn.
- 18.2 Safe use and handling procedures for the components that make up Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems are provided in the Technical Literature.



Basis of Appraisal

19.1 The following is a summary of the technical investigations carried out:

Tests

19.2 The following testing has been completed by BRANZ:

- BRANZ expert opinion on NZBC E2 code compliance for Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems was based on evaluation of all details within the scope and as stated within this Appraisal. The details contained within the Technical Literature have been reviewed, and an opinion has been given by BRANZ technical experts that the system will meet the performance levels of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 for direct fixed weatherboard claddings.
- Wind face load testing for Primelok and Selflok Weatherboards on timber framing has been completed by a NATA registered laboratory. The results have been reviewed by BRANZ Structural Engineers.
- Nail pull tests to determine the pull-out strengths of alternative Weathertex weatherboard fixings were completed by BRANZ and the results were used in assessing Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems.

Other Investigations

- 20.1 The performance and testing of wood fibre-based wall cladding products in New Zealand, Australia and the USA has been considered, including the structural and weathertightness performance, durability and non-hazardous nature.
- 20.2 Relevant data from BRANZ' previous Appraisals of Weathertex weatherboards has been considered.
- 20.3 Site visits have been carried out by BRANZ to assess the practicability of installation and to examine completed installations.
- 20.4 The Technical Literature for Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

Quality

- 21.1 The manufacture of Weathertex weatherboards has been examined by BRANZ, including methods adopted for quality control. Details regarding the quality and composition of the materials used were obtained by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 21.2 The quality of materials, components and accessories supplied by Weathertex Pty Ltd is the responsibility of Weathertex Pty Ltd. The quality control system of Weathertex Pty Ltd has been assessed and registered as meeting the requirements of AS/NZS ISO 9001:2015.
- 21.3 Quality of installation on site of components and accessories supplied by Weathertex Pty Ltd and the building contractor is the responsibility of the installer.
- 21.4 Designers are responsible for the building design, and building contractors are responsible for the quality of installation of framing systems and joinery, building underlays, flashing tapes, air-seals and cladding system in accordance with the instructions of Weathertex Pty Ltd.
- 21.5 Building owners are responsible for the maintenance of Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems in accordance with the instructions of Weathertex Pty Ltd.



Sources of Information

- AS 3566: 2002 Self-drilling screws for the building and construction industries.
- AS 3730 Guide to the properties of paints for buildings.
- AS/NZS 1170: 2002 Structural design actions.
- NZS 3603: 1993 Timber Structures Standard.
- NZS 3604: 2011 Timber-framed buildings.
- NZS 4211: 2008 Specification for performance of windows.
- Ministry of Building, Innovation and Employment Record of amendments – Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods and handbooks
- The Building Regulations 1992.



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28 February 2020

Weathertex Direct Fixed
Weatherboard Cladding Systems



In the opinion of BRANZ, **Weathertex Direct Fixed Weatherboard Cladding Systems** are fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided it is used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

The Appraisal is issued only to **Weathertex Pty Ltd**, and is valid until further notice, subject to the Conditions of Appraisal.

Conditions of Appraisal

1. This Appraisal:
 - a) relates only to the product as described herein;
 - b) must be read, considered and used in full together with the Technical Literature;
 - c) does not address any Legislation, Regulations, Codes or Standards, not specifically named herein;
 - d) is copyright of BRANZ.
2. **Weathertex Pty Ltd**:
 - a) continues to have the product reviewed by BRANZ;
 - b) shall notify BRANZ of any changes in product specification or quality assurance measures prior to the product being marketed;
 - c) abides by the BRANZ Appraisals Services Terms and Conditions;
 - d) warrants that the product and the manufacturing process for the product are maintained at or above the standards, levels and quality assessed and found satisfactory by BRANZ pursuant to BRANZ's Appraisal of the product.
3. BRANZ makes no representation or warranty as to:
 - a) the nature of individual examples of, batches of, or individual installations of the product, including methods and workmanship;
 - b) the presence or absence of any patent or similar rights subsisting in the product or any other product;
 - c) any guarantee or warranty offered by **Weathertex Pty Ltd**.
4. Any reference in this Appraisal to any other publication shall be read as a reference to the version of the publication specified in this Appraisal.
5. BRANZ provides no certification, guarantee, indemnity or warranty, to **Weathertex Pty Ltd** or any third party.

For BRANZ

Chelydra Percy

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

28 February 2020