


# CIB W055 Dedicated Session/Webinar

## From Surviving to Thriving – Building More Resilient Construction SMEs

### 13 November 2026 | Time: 10:00 – 11:15 NZT

CIB W55 – Construction Industry Economics collaborates with the 9th New Zealand Built Environment Research Symposium (NZBERS 2026) on a dedicated session/webinar at its Wellington conference. The session aligns with the CIB W55 Research Roadmap and explores how economic thinking can address emerging challenges in construction, including sustainability, economic resilience, technological advancement, and evolving business models. The focus of this Symposium is on SMEs who constitute a significant proportion of the construction industry.

Construction SMEs are essential to the performance and vitality of the construction industry, yet they face persistent economic pressures, including tight profit margins, cash-flow constraints, rising costs, productivity challenges and market uncertainty. At this CIB W055 dedicated session webinar, we will bring together researchers and industry practitioners to explore practical solutions to strengthen SMEs' resilience, improve their business performance, and support long-term growth.

**Objective**

The webinar aims to foster an interactive discussion on how construction SMEs can move beyond short-term survival towards sustainable growth. It will explore strategies to improve financial resilience, productivity and competitiveness, while identifying opportunities for collaboration among SMEs, clients, industry stakeholders,

**Facilitators**

Prof James Rotimi (W055/Massey); Prof Xiaohua (Sean) Jin (W055/WSU); Uli Johnston (CEO, Accent Mngt, NZ)

**Speakers**

1. **Androu Beshara –** Dominiqx/The Construction Boardroom, Australia

*Androu Beshara is an Australian construction industry executive and entrepreneur with over 22 years of experience driving financial performance, operational excellence and sustainable growth*.

2. **Gavin Riddle –** CEO, MS Civil Engineering, NZ

*Gavin Riddle is the Chief Executive Officer of MS Civil Construction and has more than 37 years of experience*

*across the civil infrastructure and construction sector.*

**Panellists**

**Panel 1 - Amali Fonseka –** Financial Controller, focusCFO Ltd, NZ

*Amali Fonseka is a Chartered Accountant with extensive experience advising small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on financial management, reporting and business performance.*

**Panel 2 - Matt Stevens –** Senior Lecturer, Western Sydney University, Australia

*Matt Stevens, MBA, PhD, moved from the tools to research and teaching at Western Sydney University, Australia, after starting as a labourer in 1974.*

## Agenda

| Time (NZT) | Session | Speaker(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **10.00 - 10.10** | Introduction to CIB W055 and the Session | James, Sean & Uli |
| **10.10 - 10.25** | Title: Speaker 1 | Androu Beshara |
| **10.25 - 10.40** | Title: Speaker 2 | Gavin Riddle |
| **10.40 - 11.10** | Q&A/Panel Discussions | Androu, Gavin, Amali & Matt |
| **11.10 - 11.15** | Closing Remarks | James, Sean & Uli |

**Registration**

This webinar is free and ***open only to W055 members*** and NZBERS symposium delegates.

**Webinar Link**

To be provided closer to the Symposium date