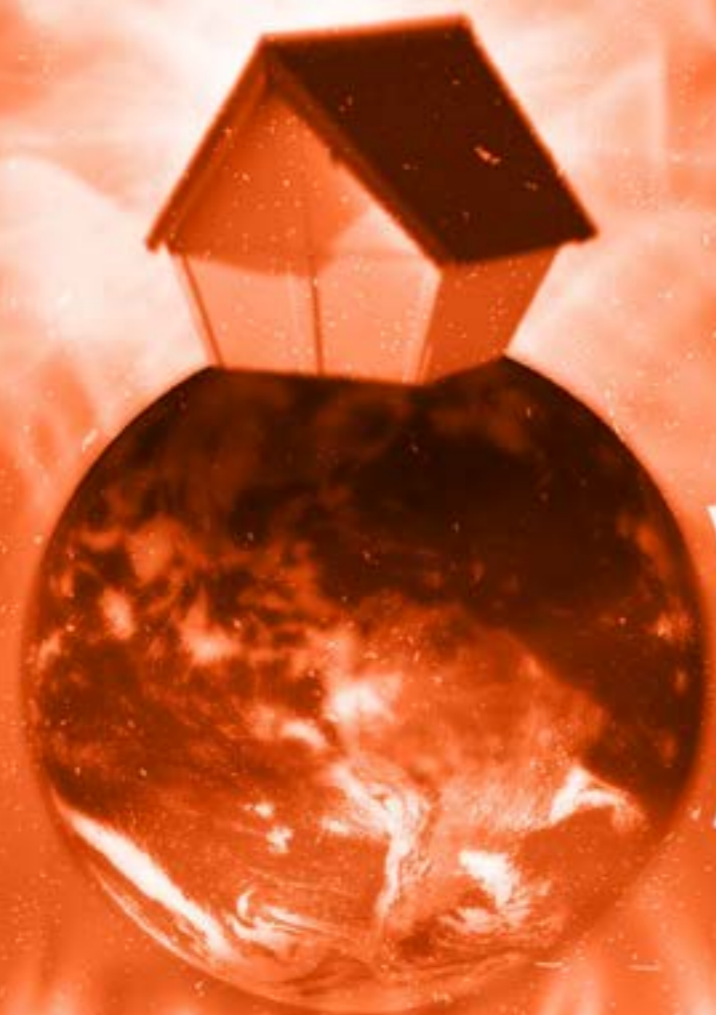


# A RENTER'S SURVIVAL GUIDE TO THE CLIMATE APOCALYPSE



ASSERT YOUR RIGHTS!  
LIVE COMFORTABLY!  
FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE!



## DEFENCES

These are some of the minimum standards (as of Jan 2024) for any rental. Use these to defend yourself against lethal heatwaves and icy winters. Check with [Consumer Affairs Victoria](#) for the latest and full set of minimum standards.

### Health & Safety

- **Mould and Dampness:** Each room in homes must be free from mould and damp caused by, or related to, the building structure
- **Ventilation:** All habitable rooms, bathrooms, shower rooms, toilets and laundries must meet the Building Code of Australia ventilation standards
- **Electrical Safety:** All power outlets and lighting circuits must be connected to a modern circuit breaker and meet Australian standards.
- **Structural Soundness:** Homes must be structurally sound and weatherproof.

### Rooms & Amenities

- **Heating:**  
The main living area must have a fixed heater in good working order. Newly installed heaters must be energy efficient (2-star rating).
- **Windows and Lighting:**  
All rooms must have access to sufficient natural light, and artificial light at night. Hallways, corridors and interior rooms must have appropriate lighting. Curtains or blinds must be fitted to windows in any bedroom or living area, must be open and closable, block light and provide privacy. All external windows that can be opened must have a latch or lock installed to secure the windows against external entry.
- **Bathroom & Laundry:**  
Must have a bathroom with cold and hot water, a basin, and shower or bath. Shower heads must have a 3-star water efficiency rating. If laundry facilities are present, they must have hot and cold water.
- **Kitchen:**  
Must have a kitchen with hot and cold water, a sink and a cooktop with 2+ burners. If there is an oven it must be in good working order.

You wake up. Your home is crumbling after centuries of neglect. The glaring sun beats down on you through the cracked windows. Desert surrounds you. The year is 2025. What do you do next...?

# ACTIONS

If any of your defences aren't in place, i.e. your property does not meet minimum standards, these are considered urgent repairs, which must be fixed, by law, ASAP.

The RAHUsistance can help you get these defences prepared. As a member, contact our support network via [organise@rahu.org.au](mailto:organise@rahu.org.au). The following are the basic actions for you to take with the RAHUsistance in our infernal battle for survival in the wastelands.

## Beg LandKing

Contact the Real Estate Agent or Landlord via email, follow up with a phone call. Note: LandKings are often unresponsive; their eyes and ears are worn down by the screams of their subjects and the glaring sun.

If you don't receive a response in a reasonable timeframe, or the urgent repair is not completed in a reasonable timeframe (24hrs-1 week usually), it is time to escalate. You can confirm with a call to CAV if that reasonable timeframe has elapsed.

## Direct Repairs

If the repair costs less than \$2500, the RAHUsistance can help coordinate the repair getting done immediately at no upfront cost to the member. We do this with our partner, Earthworker Construction Cooperative. You may need to join us in chasing the landlord to recuperate the costs to RAHU, potentially through the VCAT wasteland arena. Recovering this money may take some time, as many want to battle in the arena for glory and scraps to survive on.

## VCAT Wasteland Arena

If the LandKing is unresponsive, and the RAHUsistance cannot coordinate a direct repair, you may need to battle them in the VCAT wasteland arena. As a member, the RAHUsistance can help you prepare for your battle. VCAT will order the urgent repair to be made, and depending on circumstances, order compensation to the renter.

Depending on the urgency of the repair, this may be resolved quite quickly. VCAT urgent repair battles generally occur less than a week after application.

## Collective Action

If the LandKing is particularly brutal, and repairs are dragging on, the RAHUsistance may support you in further actions. Historically we have picketed real estate agency offices and otherwise disrupted their business as usual.

# QUESTS

## Better Defences

The minimum standards to defend ourselves against the climate apocalypse are far from enough. We need to fight for:

- Energy efficient essential appliances for all properties: air conditioning, dishwashers & washing machines.
- Fly screens on windows
- Better energy efficiency, insulation & draught proofing
- Higher minimum energy ratings for appliances
- Solar panels where possible
- Sustainable building materials
- Gas safety checks & phasing out gas

## Join the RAHUsistance: [rahu.org.au](http://rahu.org.au)

The RAHUsistance is fighting the housing crisis on many fronts, including the climate apocalypse. Together we can push for better rights through lobbying, direct action, asserting our existing rights and other collective action. As a member-run organisation, we need active participation to fight as renters for our collective survival.

## Beg LandKing's friends

Contact your local politicians (council, state, federal) to ask them to support the recommendations from the Healthy Homes campaign - [healthyhomes.org.au](http://healthyhomes.org.au). This is a wider campaign for survivable and livable rentals. You can also sign the petition on their website.

## Switch to CoPower: [cooperativepower.org.au](http://cooperativepower.org.au)

Cooperative Power is a member owned energy supplier. Instead of having your energy supplied by energylords, CoPower's mission is to address the climate apocalypse, unprecedented and growing inequality, and a decline in civil society participation. Their solution is to do this through delivering a range of environmentally-friendly energy services, facilitating democratic solutions to social and environmental problems, and assisting members and the community to transition away from fossil fuels for their energy needs. Switching only takes a few minutes via the website (or call 03 9068 6036). You can also send your existing electricity bill to [comparemybill@cooperativepower.org.au](mailto:comparemybill@cooperativepower.org.au) for a transparent comparison of how the CoPower offer stacks up.