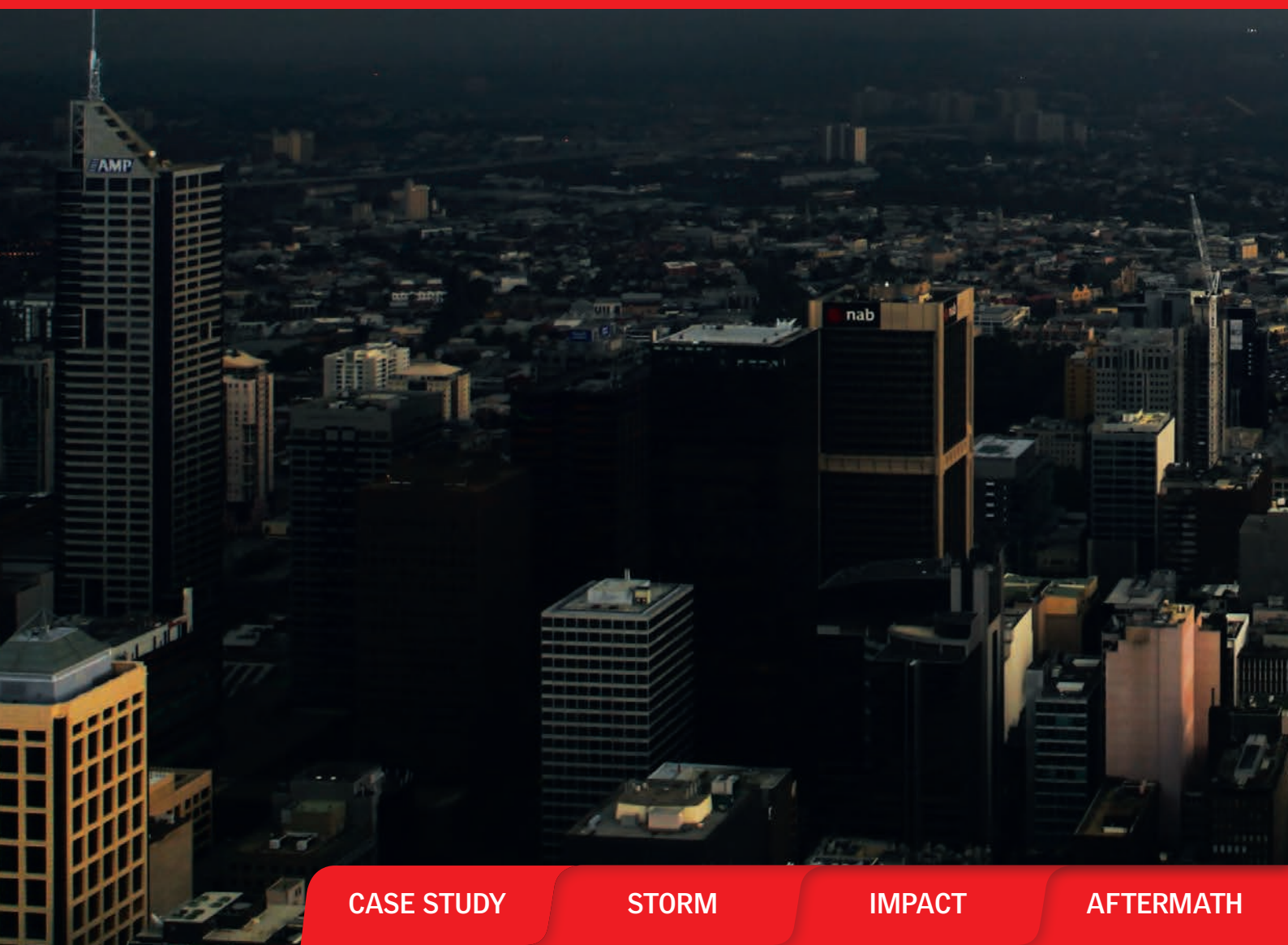




“

VELUX skylights weather the perfect storm

”



CASE STUDY

STORM

IMPACT

AFTERMATH

# MELBOURNE 6 MARCH 2010...

## THE WARNING

The Bureau of Meteorology warns that, at 2:25 pm, very dangerous thunderstorms were detected on weather radar near Melton, St Albans, Sunbury and Werribee. These thunderstorms are moving towards the southeast. Very dangerous thunderstorms are forecast to affect Caulfield, Craigieburn, Footscray, Glen Waverley, Greensborough, Melbourne City and Preston by 2:55 pm and Dandenong, Frankston, Ringwood and Scoresby by 3:25 pm. Damaging winds, very heavy rainfall, flash flooding and large hailstones are likely.

Australian Bureau of Meteorology  
2:30pm Saturday 6 March 2010

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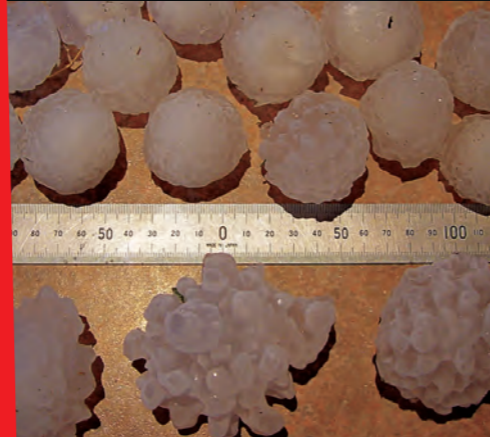


Image credit: Simon Wing-Tang



Image credit: Simon Wing-Tang



Image credit: Sebastian Costanzo / Fairfax Photos



Image credit: Melbourne City Council

## THE IMPACT

The storm hit on Saturday at 2.40pm (AEDT), dumping 26mm of rain on Melbourne in less than an hour. Nineteen millimetres of rain pounded the city in less than 18 minutes. Hail the size of golf balls showered the city, with reports of some hail stones the size of cricket balls in Ferntree Gully. Wind gusts exceeding 100km/h lashed Melbourne Airport. Bureau of Meteorology senior forecaster Scott Williams described the weather as a "super cell storm," the likes of which are only seen in Melbourne about once every five to 10 years. "What you get with the super cell thunderstorm is that the clouds rotate around a centre of low pressure," he said. "It is like a mini-cyclone."

[www.ninemsn.com.au](http://www.ninemsn.com.au)  
Saturday 6 March 2010

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One unlucky skylight owner was caught in the eye of the storm...

John's VELUX skylights were largely unaffected by the storm but his plastic dome skylights collapsed and water was coming in everywhere.



One of John's plastic dome skylights from the inside: hail stones crashed right through. ▲



John Spink in front of his home in Upwey. Hail stones up to 10cm – larger than cricket balls – hit the area at around 3:30pm on Saturday 6 March 2010. ▲

## “ PLASTIC DOME SKYLIGHTS SMASHED TO PIECES ”

The Upwey suburb in the Dandenongs close to Ferntree Gully was one of the worst affected areas. According to the Bureau of Meteorology hail stones up to 10cm hit the area at around 3:30pm. Bird breeder John Spink was waving a customer goodbye as the storm hit.

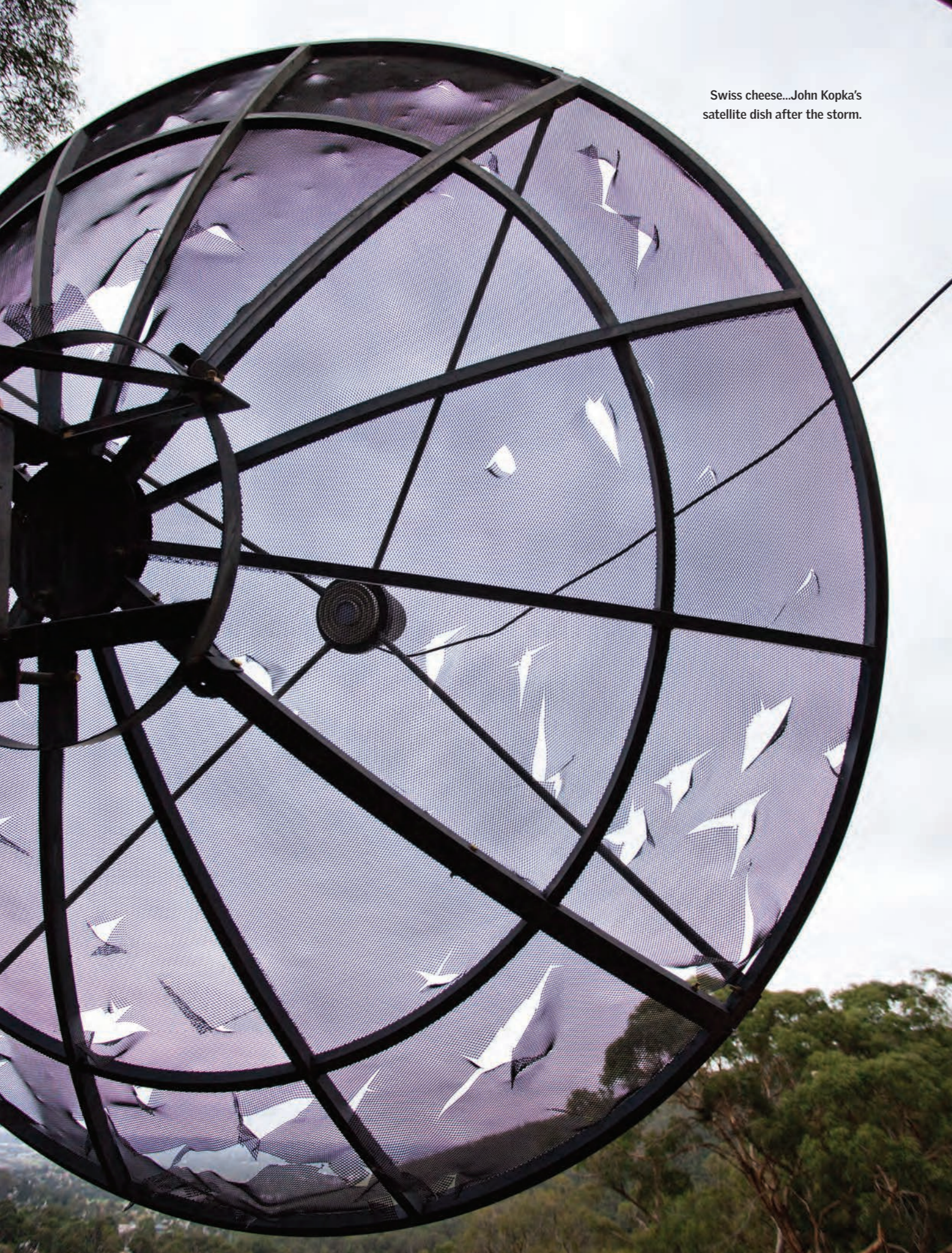
"All of a sudden the storm hit and I rushed inside. The noise from hail stones the size of cricket balls hammering my roof and windows was terrifying...but not as terrifying as the sound of my plastic dome skylights getting smashed to pieces. Hail stones crashed right through both layers of plastic. The first plastic dome to go was right above my TV and a flood of water hit my TV before I had a chance to move it. Within 2 minutes my plastic dome skylights were smashed and I had water coming in everywhere."

### **VELUX largely unaffected by the storm**

On the same roof as the plastic dome skylights, John has 6 VELUX skylights installed. "Remarkably all my VELUX skylights survived the storm with ease. No glass was broken, only minor dents in the outer frame which cause no problems and can easily be repaired."

### **Neighbour seeking shelter**

A walk up the road confirms John Spink's statements. We run into John Kopka, a resident since 1958. "During my 50 odd years in the area I have never experienced anything like this weather but some say it will become more common in the future. It sounded like someone shooting with a machine gun at my house. My satellite dish got smashed but luckily my windows and roof survived. My neighbour was not quite as fortunate: his living room windows were smashed and he had to seek shelter from the hail stones in a corner behind some furniture."



Swiss cheese...John Kopka's satellite dish after the storm.

## “ THE AFTERMATH ”



△ Territory Manager Carl Swanson, VELUX, inspects the roof. The only damage to the VELUX skylights was minor dents in the outer frame.

▶ John Spink with one of his prized possessions: a \$9,000 South American Macaw parrot.



10 shattered plastic dome skylights were only part of the damage to John Spink's property.

"I lost my TV and VCR when the first plastic dome skylight gave in. Most of my carpets need to be replaced due to the flooding, 4 windows were smashed, gutter guards, my aircon...all up the insurance company estimates about \$14,500 worth of damage.

But I got off lightly. My customer didn't get away in time and his car got wrecked. One of my neighbours had two cars wrecked, another has to replace half his roof...the tiles simply gave in."

### Lesson learnt

"If I knew then what I know now, I would have bought VELUX skylights instead of plastic domes," adds John. "It was a scary experience and I feel much safer with VELUX above my head. Besides, I wouldn't need as many VELUX skylights because they let much more light in...and fresh air."

### VELUX... TESTED TO EXTREMES

Why did the VELUX skylights survive the storm while the plastic dome skylights collapsed? With an outer pane of toughened safety glass as well as two laminated inner panes it takes more than the storm that hit Melbourne on 6 March 2010 to affect a VELUX skylight.

VELUX skylights are tested to extremes. They surpass the AS4285 and AS1288 requirements for load and wind pressure – some are even cyclone proof. They have passed the same watertightness test as roof tiles. And, for installations above 18°, they meet the criteria for Bushfire Attack Level 40 requirements.

# VELUX®

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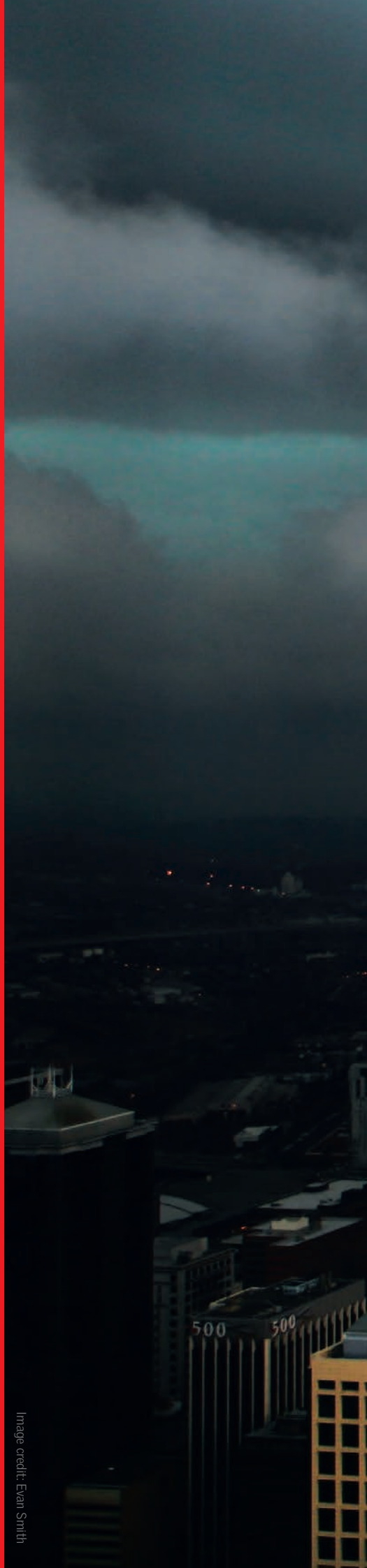


Image credit: Eyan Smith