

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING 14 MAY 2024



Item 3.1 Council Plan and Budget (Year 4) Interim engagement Report: Hearing of Community Feedback

Question from Councillor Crawford:

Following on from Jillian Redner's submission regarding the proposed increase in rates for vacant shops. Under our policy for vacant or inactivated land, for landlords who can show they are genuinely trying to get tenants, is consideration able to be given?

Response:

Under the proposed definitions of unactivated retail land, there is currently no exemption where a property owner is actively/genuinely trying to tenant their property.

A general exemption is provided for all retail properties to be left vacant for up to two years before the unactivated retail land rates will apply.

This two-year period was deemed to be an appropriate grace period to allow sufficient time for a property to be re-tenanted.

A property is activated if it participated in Council's Vacant Shop Program for more than 30 days in the two-year period.

A property owner may submit an objection to Council on unactivated retail land differential rating. An Appeals Panel, which includes Council Officers from Finance, Rates, Planning, Economic Growth and Activation, and Local Laws, will consider all relevant information provided by the property owner.

**Please note: Responses to any questions during Public Question Time and Councillor Question Time which were responded to during the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*