

# ATTACHMENT 6

Community feedback



### **Issues that were raised at the Special Rate Variation Forums**

1. What happens when one business operates from one site that consists of multiple rateable properties?

*Council will ensure that each business will only be charged one levy by using section 531B of the Local Government Act 1993.*

2. Are local businesses that operate from home going to pay the \$195 Special Rate Variation?

*Unfortunately the special rate variation only applies to Industrial and commercial properties. Council will approach owners of business who operate from mobile or residential premises and ask them to contribute voluntarily.*

3. How will the funds be spent and who will administer the funds?

*The funds raised will be used to implement a promotions and marketing strategy that will be managed by a local business advisory board comprising council representative, Deniliquin Business Chamber and individual business leaders*

4. All ratepayers should contribute to the fund.

*Council did consider the option of applying the special variation across all categories of ratepayers; however council considers that the business community will be the primary beneficiary of the strategy.*

5. Why do empty premises and vacant land have to contribute to the fund?

*Council has proposed the promotions strategy in response to business concerns that the local economy was weakening and because of numerous and sustained complaints about empty premises.*

6. It is not fair that people who operate businesses from home do not have to pay the proposed levy.

*Council agrees but does not have a legal avenue through which to compel those businesses to contribute. Council will seek voluntary contributions from those businesses.*