CENTRAL COAST GREENS

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The cancellation of 'Mountain Sounds' needs to prompt a rethink says Greens candidate for Terrigal, Bob Doyle

"The cancellation of the Mountain Sounds Festival is a blow to music lovers on the Coast and the local tourism economy," said Bob Doyle, state candidate for the Greens in Terrigal.

"With an expectation that the Festival would suddenly come up with the $200,000 to fund 34 extra police, the government has clearly given notice to music lovers that it is declaring war on good times.

Bob Doyle said, "The Greens are conscious of the importance of the festival to local businesses as well as the many musicians and performers who had their act cancelled at short notice. Up to this point, the Festival organisers have complied with every licensing requirement. They have a track record of conducting not only safe but highly successful events."

He added, "The Berejiklian government's last-minute imposition of completely unreasonable conditions was designed to prevent this festival from going ahead. It shows a complete disdain for the legitimate interests of ticket holders, festival organisers and their team of contributing artists and businesses.

"The Greens have called for pill testing at festivals, not more police and sniffer dogs. We have strong backing from many prominent medical professionals and we need to save lives through harm minimisation. This festival is about connecting people in a safe, creative and celebratory atmosphere."

"I would like to point out that we have a popular event called the State Elections coming to the Central Coast on Saturday March 23 – it is free, fair and has the potential to reduce much harm."

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