

## Embedded Batteries Disposal trial underway at GWMC

Gregadoo Waste Management Centre (GWMC) is currently accepting items with embedded batteries until September 2026 as part of a statewide trial to reduce the number of batteries going into landfill.

The Embedded Batteries Disposal trial addresses the consumer's need for a safe, easy and free way to dispose of end-of-life products with embedded batteries.

It is unsafe to dispose of any kind of batteries in your kerbside bins, embedded batteries are especially problematic because when they are exposed to heat, water or physical damage (i.e. compacted in a garbage bin), they can start an electrical fire, putting you, our staff, our contracted staff and the environment at risk.

Any cordless and rechargeable device will likely have a battery hidden somewhere inside and these batteries feature different compositions and components with different recycling needs.

Here is a list of common items that contain embedded batteries

- Bluetooth speakers and headphones
- Electric toothbrushes
- E-scooters, e-bikes and hover boards
- Flashing/light up toys – particularly wands or other hard plastic products
- Personal care devices (e.g. shavers)
- Powerpacks and portable charging devices
- Remote controlled and ride-on toys
- Vacuum cleaners (cordless hand-held and robotic)
- Vapes
- Wearable devices such as smart watches, trackers and medical aids

GWMC Facilities Manager Andrea Baldwin has suggested the importance of recycling embedded batteries.

“By collecting your items with embedded batteries, we can support innovation in the recycling industry and increase the chance of reclaiming the precious metals used in battery construction,” Ms Baldwin said.

“Batteries are embedded into so many of our everyday devices. This kind of technology is here to stay. We need our community to help support safe disposal of these items, so they don't end up in our waste stream and in landfill.

“Therefore, we want residents to start bringing any end-of-life items with embedded batteries to Gregadoo Waste Management Centre for collection today.”

The EPA Embedded Batteries disposal trial runs until September 2026. For a full list of embed batteries visit **[wagga.nsw.gov.au/embeddedbatteries](http://wagga.nsw.gov.au/embeddedbatteries)**

Gregadoo Waste Management Centre is located at 132 Ashfords Road and is open daily 7am – 4:30pm.

Don't forget to check out our list of other items accepted by at GWMC Community Recycling Centre (CRC) that can be dropped off for free.

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## **MEDIA OPPORTUNITY**

**What:** Hear about the Embedded Battery Disposal trial currently underway at Gregadoo Waste Management Centre (GWMC)

**When:** Wednesday 21 May at 8:45am

**Who:** GWMC Facilities Manager Andrea Baldwin

**Where:** Gregadoo Waste Management Centre Transfer Station – CRC, 132 Ashfords Rd.

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Contact 6926 9190 or [media@wagga.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@wagga.nsw.gov.au)

## **About Wagga Wagga City Council**

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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