# 9510 Steering Committee Discussion Paper  4:   AREAS

**Background:**

Currently both District 9500 and 9520 allocate all their clubs into Groups. 9500 have 10 groups of 4-5 clubs each while 9520 have 8 groups containing between 6 and 9 clubs.  Each Group has an assigned Assistant Governor who really acts as a bridge between the Clubs and the District Governor.  As a group, the Assistant Governors meet together 2-4 times a year.  While there is occasionally training for Assistant Governors, some seem unclear of their role.  Consequently, some Assistant Governors are seen as being very pro-active in encouraging and supporting clubs on grants and community development etc while others tend to only be reactive to issues and needs and therefore have little involvement in some of their Clubs.  Some Assistant Governors hold regular meetings of their Club Presidents and visit Clubs bi-annually, other don't.  There seems to be little uniformity in how the Groups and Assistant Governors function.

**Concept:**

Transform the Groups into larger Areas and the Assistant Governors into Area Governors and empower these Areas by devolving some of the District functions to the Areas to enable all Clubs (Rotary and Rotaract) to have a meaningful role in running Rotary in the District.  As well as enhancing the Area Governor's role within the Area, the idea is to also ensure that as a group, the Area Governors have a more significant role in the District management structures.  Implementation of this concept would result in the new District 9510 having 7 Areas of 12-15 Clubs each.

**Why the change?  (the reason):**

There is a well recognised disconnect between a number of Clubs and Rotarians and their District.  This is a problem if the focus of the new District 9510 is to work with clubs to support them transform and re-invigorate their themselves and to grow Rotary.  The Area concept involves a disbursement of powers and a more inclusive District management structure that provides a meaningful involvement for all Clubs in the running of Rotary in the District and hopefully gets their commitment to work together in the best interest of Rotary.

**How might it work?:**

If some District functions are to be decentralised to the Areas, then there is a need for an Area management structure which logically would be the Area Governor (2 year role) and the Presidents of all the Clubs in the Area (1 year) plus the Immediate Past Area Governor (1 year role) and then the Area Governor Elect (1 year role).  If the Area Governor is a 2 year role

then in the first year the IPAG would be on the committee and in the second year the IPAG would be replaced by the AGE.

The Area Management Committee should convene at least 6 times per year with meetings possibly utilising technology like ZOOM to minimise travel for the members.  If Presidents were unable to attend then they should appoint a replacement for the meeting.

To become an Area Governor, a Rotarian must have served at least one term as the President of a Rotary Club. The term for an Area Governor should be for two years after serving a year as an Area Governor Elect. Having been an Assistant Governor should not preclude a person for holding the position of Area Governor.

Area Governors should be selected by a very open and transparent process at the Area level and involving input from all Clubs in the Area.

The Area Management Committee should submit an annual budget to the District to cover their costs.

### What might the Area administer?:

As well as manage some roles devolved to them by the District, the Area Management Committee might also manage joint initiatives of the Clubs in the Area.  Collectively the Area might manage:

- The selection of their own Area Governor.
- The selection of the Area's nomination for any District position including District Governor.
- An annual Area Conference, conducted by a Club (or group of clubs) from the Area on a rotation basis, that showcases the projects and activities of clubs in the Area and incorporates local community involvement and invitations to Rotarians from other Rotary Clubs across the District.  It is anticipated that the DG would play a significant role with the Area Governor in these Area conferences.
- The selection and allocation of the District Grants to the Clubs in the Area based on the funds proportioned to the Area from the DDF.
- Joint initiatives of the clubs in the Area like the implementation of a combined membership attraction initiative.
- Liaisons with local government and private sector groups in the Area to enhance the image of Rotary and attract new members to Rotary.
- The coordination with local media to enhance the image of Rotary in the Area.
- Conducting Area Assemblies.

**WHAT OTHER INITIATIVES COULD AN AREA MANAGE?**

**PLEASE GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK**

**Role of the Area Governor:**

A significant feature of the enhanced role of the Area Governors is to take over some aspects previously the domain of the DG so that they can spend more time on strategic matters.

In consultation with the District Governor and with the assistance of the District Training Team (where necessary), the role of Area Governor could involve:-

- Conducting, implementing, or reviewing district strategic planning with the governor, governor-elect and governor-nominee.
- Chairing the Area Management Committee and arrange at least 6 meetings of the Committee per year.
- Strengthening clubs and starting new clubs.
- Oversee the selections processes for the Area Governor and for the nomination from the area for District Governor.
- Conduct the selection process for the District Grants to be awarded to the clubs in the Area.
- Offer non-judgemental support tailored to the club's need by listening to clubs, offering options and alternatives and working in partnership with the clubs.
- Promoting membership growth and engagement by working with district leaders and club presidents to set realistic membership goals for each club in the Area.
- Oversee the organization of an annual Area Conference conducted by a Club (or group of clubs) from the Area on a rotation basis that showcases the projects and activities of clubs in the Area and incorporates local community involvement and participation from other Rotary Clubs from other Areas.
- Communicate clubs' strengths, weaknesses, and progress toward goals to the governor.
- Accordingly to personal areas of expertise, coordinate one of the District support teams that provides customized assistance to clubs across the District
- Attend the presidents-elect training seminar and district training assembly.

- Visit Clubs at least once per year and attend club meetings, club assemblies, and other events as invited.
- Identify and develop future leaders.
- Supporting The Rotary Foundation through fundraising and grant activities.
- Establish communication strategies for enhanced communication and innovative types of meeting between and with all Clubs in the Area and with District personnel as well as working with local media and the public and private sector to "sell Rotary" to the public and assist with the recruitment of new members.
- Serving as a spokesperson for the Area and Rotary when appropriate
- Helping the governor-elect plan and prepare for incoming officer training meetings.
- Assist with the conducting of district events, including the district conference, district leadership seminar, and district Rotary Foundation seminar that apply to the Area
- Supervising the district leadership team within the Area
- Encouraging open communication among clubs, as well as between clubs and RI
- Officially visiting each club within the Area (through meetings with one or more clubs), to raise awareness of important Rotary issues, support struggling clubs, motivate club members to participate in service, and recognize members' contributions
- Communicating at least monthly with each club president and secretary within the Area
- Enable joint activities and projects between clubs within the Area.
- Fostering continuity by working with past, current, and incoming district leaders.
- Transferring district files to the Area governor-elect at the completion of the term.
- Reviewing clubs' status with the Area governor-elect before the Australian Zone Institute and offering recommendations for strengthening weak clubs
- Following the District Governor Code of Ethics (Rotary Code of Policies section 19.010.1.)
- Performing such other duties as required by the District Governor.

**Role of the Area Governor Elect:**

Essentially to support the Area Governor in the second year of their term. Support for the AG in the first year would be provided by the Immediate Past Area Governor. Working closely with the Area Governor, the Area Governor Elect could:

- Attend the Area governor training seminar in the year prior to becoming an Area governor.
- Assist the District Governor Elect in setting district goals for the year that align with the district strategic plan and Rotary's strategic plan.
- Recommend Rotarians as district committee chairs to the District Governor Elect.
- Conduct Area meetings, assist the District Training team with the district team training seminar, presidents-elect training seminar, and district training assembly as required by the District Governor Elect.
- Assist the District Governor Elect with the planning for the district conference.
- Assist the Area Governor with the planning for the Area conference.
- Attend the Zone Institute (Australian Rotary Conference)

**What might the Areas look like?**

A first draft of the allocation of the 9510 clubs into Areas follows:

**AREA 1:** Alice Springs, Alice Springs-Mbantua, Stuart Alice Springs, Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Whyalla Norrie, Port Augusta, Roxby District, Peterborough, Port Pirie, Maitland, Northern Yorke Peninsula (12), *Port Pirie High Interact*

**AREA 2:** Adelaide, Adelaide Light, Adelaide Parks, Adelaide South, Adelaide West, Adelaide Innova, Prospect, Prospect Sunrise, Regency Park, Walkerville, Eastwood, Unley, E-Club of Greater South Oz, Hyde Park (12), *Adelaide City Rotaract, Adelaide Uni Rotaract, Adelaide High Interact*

**AREA 3:** Barossa Districts, Barossa Valley, Clare, Gawler, Gawler Light, Kapunda, Elizabeth, Playford, Salisbury, Mawson Lakes, Golden Grove, Makin EDGE, Tea Tree Gully, Modbury (14), *Salisbury City Rotaract, Gawler District College Interact*

**AREA 4:** Seaford, Morphett Vale, Hallett Cove, Edwardstown, Glenelg, Holdfast Bay, Somerton Park, Kidman Park, West Lakes, Henley Beach, West Torrens, Charles Sturt Grange, Largs Bay, Port Adelaide (14), *Thebarton Senior College Rotaract*

**AREA 5:** Broken Hill, Broken Hill South, Irymple, Merbein, Mildura, Mildura Deakin, Red Cliffs, Robinvale-Euston, South Mildura, Wentworth, Berri, Loxton, Renmark, Waikerie (14)

**AREA 6:** Mt Barker, Onkaparinga, Encounter Bay, Goolwa, McLaren Vale, Strathalbyn, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla, Blakiston, Mobilong, Murray Bridge, Tailem Bend, Noarlunga, Noarlunga East. (12), *Murray Bridge Interact*

**AREA 7:**   Campbelltown, Magill Sunrise, Morialta, Kent Town, Flagstaff Hill, Brownhill Creek, Mitcham, Burnside, Norwood, Stirling, St Peters, Blackwood, Coromandel Valley (13), *Flinders Uni Rotaract*

**We want your feedback**   This is a first draft of the AREA CONCEPT DISCUSSION PAPER

# What do you think?

# What are your thoughts?

# Do you have other ideas about structuring the new District?

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