

Zone 8 Regional Pilot Fact Sheet

Rotary International is considering establishing a regional governance pilot to address membership, public image, communication, and fundraising challenges to ensure our organisation thrives long into the future.

Should this proceed, in Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands we have an opportunity to be one of a small number of regions across the globe to pilot this new governance structure, created by RI's Shaping Rotary's Future Committee (SRF).

By streamlining our existing governance structure, we will:

- Allow clubs sharing geography, culture and language to organise in ways that suit them.
- Eliminate duplication and remove layers of hierarchy to make Rotary nimble and more cost effective.
- Bring together the best resources from across the region and make them easily accessible to every club.
- Improve communication effectiveness in order to enhance club and member engagement.
- Grow membership through new club types, flexibility, and partnership options reflecting our diversity.
- Attract more community, corporate, and government sector support by communicating with one voice.
- Enhance leadership and personal development activities to better suit our modern world.
- Foster more diverse perspectives in decision making.
- Reduce the burden of administrative responsibilities placed upon leaders.

The overarching aim is to provide better and more direct support to clubs through a less layered, but more effective and contemporary structure.

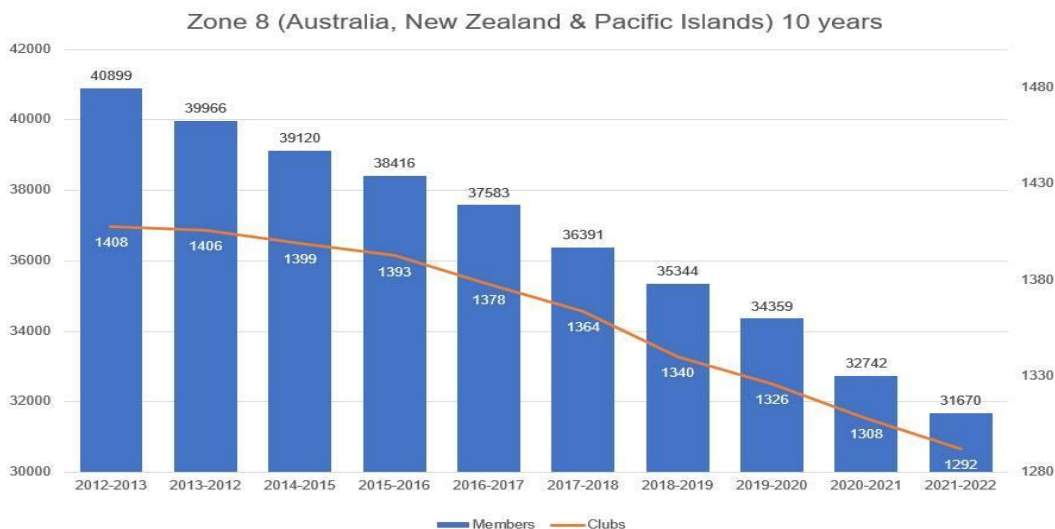
In addition to potentially saving members time and money, the new structure will foster more vibrant club environments and provide doable and attractive roles that are accessible to more potential Rotary leaders.

Why?

Over the last 10 years Rotary International has recruited approximately 1.4 million new Rotarians but total membership has remained around 1.2 million for the last 20 years. In Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, the trend is even worse with a loss of 22.6 % in Rotarian membership over the last 10 years.

Changing volunteer trends and ageing demographics present new opportunities for innovation and collaboration in how we serve our communities, enjoy fellowship, engage participants, develop leaders, and grow Rotary.

The time has come to address some of our most persistent challenges in ways that are more impactful, relevant, and attractive to future generations of members who share our passion for service and leadership. We must do so whilst enhancing what is great about Rotary.



Zone 8 Regional Pilot Fact Sheet

Our journey

We first looked at ways in which the volunteer structure could be reorganised 10 years ago. Revitalising some of that groundwork, the local Regional Pilot team has come together with Rotary International's SRF team to test a proposed model.

The efficacy of any changes needs to be confirmed with a thorough pilot process in up to three regions across the world. The Shaping Rotary's Future Committee has seen the work we've done in our region and considers us suitable to be a part of the pilot process.

How would the pilot work?

For more detailed explanations please visit [Rotary Zone 8 \(Australia\)](#), [Rotary Oceania \(New Zealand\)](#) and click on the Frequently Asked Questions document.

All districts in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands would be placed within a region governed by a Regional Council that would manage all regional operations with the assistance of vibrant Regional Support Committees. The role of the Regional Council would be to manage the day-to-day activities of the region, including setting membership dues and governing all aspects of Rotary currently managed by districts.

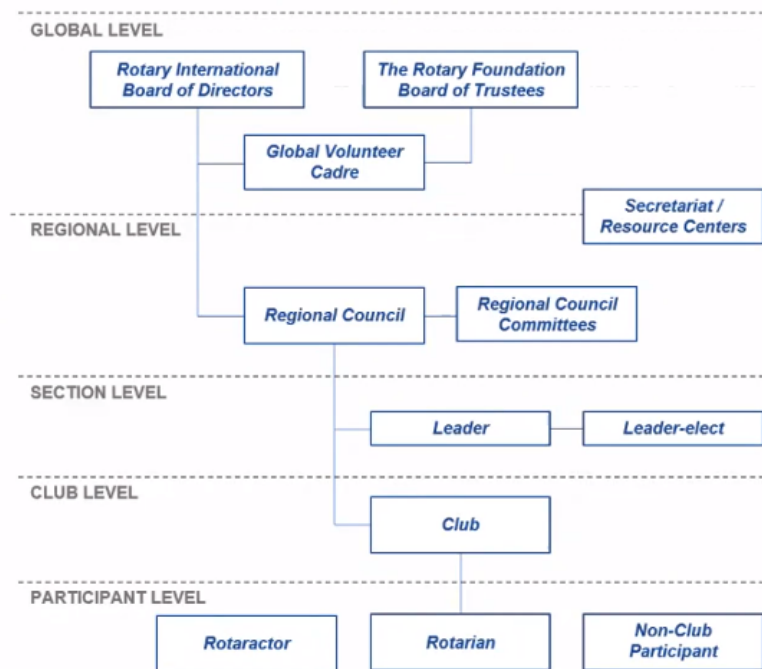
Each region would then be divided into sections or areas, with 10-30 Rotary and Rotaract clubs within each. Sections would be supported by a leader who would guide and motivate their clubs to reach their goals. The section leader would not be a rebranded district governor or assistant district governor position.

Additionally, a Global Cadre (or Global Specialist Support Team) comprised of leaders with expertise on specific topics, from public image to fundraising, is proposed. They would be available to support regions, sections, clubs, and members.

Should the pilot proceed, Rotarians and Rotaractors within each region will be invited to apply for a position on the Regional Council, Regional Committees, Global Cadre, or as a Section Leader. Once the slate of candidates has been determined, members within each region will elect who would serve on the Regional Council and as their section leader. Those elected would then receive appropriate training from Rotary International.

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HIGH-LEVEL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



*Please note the above are not defined titles and suggestions are welcomed

What are next steps?

Several processes are required before a pilot can proceed, including significant consultation with member clubs and districts across the zone as well as discussion at RI Board level:

- In October 2021, the SRF Committee will seek guidance from the RI Board to progress the concept.
- In April 2022, the relevant enactment at the Council of Legislation will clear the way for pilots to start.
- In May 2022, the clubs and districts in our zone will vote upon whether or not to participate in the pilot.

Other important facts should the pilot proceed are:

- Changes are not fait accompli, and the pilot would need to confirm that the new governance arrangements increase our effectiveness, and efficiency, improve the overall membership experience, and welcome more diverse voices into leadership roles.
- Existing district structures would remain in place to maintain legalities with DGs and Regional Council sharing management.
- Appointed district governors will play a key advisory role in the process with careful evaluation, monitoring, and reviewing along the way.

The timeline below depicts this process and next steps.

Zone 8 Regional Pilot Fact Sheet

Timeline

The concept of piloting a Regional governance structure is currently under consideration by the Rotary International Board. Should it proceed with Zone 8 being one of these pilots, appointed district governors together with the Regionalisation Planning Group, would work together to establish an Interim Regional Council along with the associated roles, processes, and systems.

Activities would gradually transition over time as shown in the table below and appointed district governors would play an important advisory role. There are likely to be considerable preparatory activities including training and there will be ongoing progressive review, measurement, and adjustment as needed.

The following table depicts possible transition steps during which there will be extensive and regular communication and consultation with Rotary and Rotaract members.

OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE TRANSITION STEPS	9th September 2021																																																																													
	2021												2022												2023												2024												2025												2026																	
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Wide Consultation & Voting to be a Pilot	█																																																																													
Interim Regional Structure													█																																																																	
Develop the Systems and Processes	█																																																																													
Selecting & Training Office Bearers																									█																																																					
Some District functions at Regional level																									█																																																					
Full functioning Regional Council																																					█																																									
Monitoring and Evaluation of the Pilot													█																																																																	

Further information

View a **Zoom recording from Past RI President Barry Rassin** presenting the Shaping Rotary’s Future model.

Read the **Frequently Asked Questions**.

See **previous articles from Rotary Down Under** magazine.

Should you have any questions, would like to provide feedback, or would like a specific presentation to your Club, contact us at rotaryregionalpilot@gmail.com, contact your local Regionalisation District Representative, or approach a member of the Regionalisation Planning Team.

View **District Regionalisation Representatives** here.

View extensive **Regionalisation Planning Team Members representing all districts and countries** here.