



30th July 2026

Dear Club Presidents, Club Secretaries and Club Board Members,

You are receiving this communication because Rotary International has directed District 9560 to conduct a club ballot regarding a proposed district reorganisation that would take effect from 1st July 2028.

Under *Rotary International Code of Policies (Article 17.010.5)*, districts with 1,100 or more Rotarians must provide clubs with the opportunity to discuss and vote on a districting proposal. Clubs must be given 30 days to respond. If a majority of clubs in a district reject the proposal, the proposal does not proceed.

Proposed District Reorganisation

The proposal currently being considered by Rotary International would result in:

- The Queensland-based clubs of District 9560 being merged with all clubs from District 9620 and parts of District 9640 into a new district.
- Northern Territory and Timor-Leste clubs currently within District 9560 being transferred into a separate district incorporating South Australia (District 9510), the Northern Territory, Timor-Leste and clubs from neighbouring districts (five clubs from 9780).
- The proposed Queensland-based district also including clubs located in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Nauru.

Under the proposed model, Northern Territory and Timor-Leste clubs would no longer be part of the same district structure as Queensland clubs, resulting in the conclusion of those long-standing district relationships as they currently exist.

Information Available to Clubs

At this stage, District 9560 has only been provided with proposed district boundaries, club allocations and membership numbers. District 9560 has not been provided with, or advised of, a future governance model, district constitution, district board and leadership structures, district leadership plan, Assistant Governor/Rotary Community Leader structures (noting that District 9620 has not participated in the Regionalisation Pilot and continues to operate under the pre-pilot structure), or regional representation arrangements for the proposed districts.

Clubs should also note that the districts proposed to merge currently operate under different funding models. Current District levies are as follows:

District 9510	\$90 per member, per year including GST
District 9560	\$125 per member, per year including GST
District 9620	\$155 per member, per year including GST

No decision has been provided regarding the future district dues structure should the reorganisation proceed.

Attached is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document that has been prepared by Rotary International South Pacific and Philippines Office (RISPPPO).

District Size and Scale

District 9560 currently comprises:

- 1,455 Rotarians
- 80 Rotary Clubs
- 15 Rotaract Clubs (including three clubs currently progressing through the chartering process)

Based on the information supplied to District 9560, the proposed new districts would comprise approximately:

	NUMBER OF MEMBERS (ACTIVE ROTARIANS)	NUMBER OF ROTARY CLUBS
PROPOSED DISTRICT 9595 (QLD)	3,718	191
PROPOSED DISTRICT #TBC (SA/NT)	1,932	93

It is noted that total Rotaract club numbers have not yet been provided.

Clubs may wish to consider both the opportunities and challenges associated with a district of this scale, including:

- Access to a larger pool of potential district leaders.
- Increased diversity of clubs and communities.
- Greater travel distances between clubs and district leadership.
- The ability of future District Governors and district leaders to provide direct support and face-to-face engagement across such a large geographical area.
- The impact on district events, training programs, leadership development and club visits.
- Representation of regional, remote and international clubs within future district structures.

Club Voting Process

This ballot is being conducted in accordance with Rotary International's districting policy. Each club is entitled to one vote only, regardless of the number of members within the club. This voting strength provisions contained within the District 9560 Constitution do not apply for this ballot.

District 9560 is not directing clubs how to conduct the ballot. Each club should determine, through its own governance processes, how the club's position will be determined. Rotary International's Code of Policies does not prescribe whether this decision must be made by a club board, club membership meeting or other club process.

The following question is being presented to clubs for voting purposes:

Following the June 2026 Rotary International Board meeting, where the in-principle decision was made to modify the current 19 districts to the planned 9 districts, a proposal has been submitted to Rotary International that would:

- *Transfer the Queensland-based clubs of District 9560 into a proposed new District 9595, comprising all clubs from District 9620, the Queensland-based clubs of District 9640, the clubs of Banora Point-Tweed and Kingscliff, and clubs in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Nauru.*
- *Transfer the Northern Territory and Timor-Leste clubs of District 9560 into a separate proposed district comprising all clubs from current District 9510 and some clubs of Bordertown, Mount Gambier and Naracoorte from District 9780.*

The proposed reorganisation would take effect from 1st July 2028.

After reviewing the proposal and the accompanying information provided by District 9560, does your club agree to the proposed district reorganisation? YES / NO

How To Vote: Please submit your club's vote using the following Microsoft Forms link:

[District Reorganising Ballot – Fill in form](#)

Voting is restricted to one response per club. To vote:

1. Log in using your club's official District 9560 email account.
2. Complete the Microsoft Form.
3. Submit your club's vote.

The form has been configured to allow only one response per club email account.

If you experience any difficulty accessing the form, please submit a [Systems Support request](#) immediately.

Important

This matter requires urgent attention. The outcome of this ballot is significant.

Under Rotary International policy, if a majority of clubs in District 9560 reject the proposal, the proposed districting arrangement does not proceed. Following the close of voting, District 9560 is required to certify the result and advise Rotary International South Pacific and Philippines Office (RISPPPO) whether a majority of clubs did or did not reject the proposal.

If a majority of District 9560 clubs reject the proposal:

- District 9560 would be required to certify the result to Rotary International.
- The proposal affecting District 9560 does not move forward.
- Rotary International would need to determine any future course of action in accordance with its districting policies and procedures.

If a majority of District 9560 clubs accept the proposal:

- District 9560 would be required to certify the result to Rotary International.
- Rotary International would then continue its districting approval process for the proposed new district structure.

For this reason, it is important that every club considers the proposal carefully and submits a response. As the proposal only fails if more than 50% of clubs reject it, every club is strongly encouraged to participate in the voting process and submit a response before the closing date. If your club does not submit a vote, your club will not be counted amongst those clubs formally rejecting the proposal.

All votes must be submitted no later than 30th August 2026.

This is one of the most significant structural changes ever proposed for District 9560.

Regardless of your club's position on the proposal, District 9560 encourages every club to participate in the voting process so that Rotary International receives a clear indication of the views of the clubs across our district.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Yours in Rotary,



Rita Zappulla

District Governor

Rotary International District 9560

Redistricting FAQ – Zone 8

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is intended to help Rotary and Rotaract members, clubs, and district leaders understand the proposed Zone 8 redistricting plans connected to the Regionalisation Pilot. This document can be shared with members as required.

1. What is the Zone 8 Regionalisation Pilot?

The Zone 8 Regionalisation Pilot is an initiative designed to test a modern, regionally relevant governance structure for Rotary in Zone 8. Its purpose is to support new ways to grow Rotary, expand reach, increase impact, and strengthen support for clubs and members across the region.

2. Why is redistricting being considered now?

Redistricting is being considered as part of post-pilot planning and futureproofing for Rotary in Zone 8. Although redistricting was paused during the pilot, leaders recognised the need to plan not only for 2028, but also for 2038 and beyond. The goal is to avoid the need for another major redistricting process in just a few years.

3. Who developed the proposed redistricting plan?

A Redistricting Working Group was established at the direction of the RI Board following the January 2026 Board meeting. The group was led by RI Director Jennifer Scott and included representatives from each District Governor cohort, the Rotary South Pacific Board, the Regionalisation Pilot Steering Group, and RI staff.

4. How was consultation carried out?

The working group met weekly after the January Board meeting and used a collaborative approach. Consultation included input from district leaders and members, multiple webinars with more than 400 attendees, recorded meetings, a dedicated districting email inbox that received more than 150 emails and planned in-person engagement with districts.

5. What is the current district structure in Zone 8?

Zone 8 currently has 19 active districts, approximately 25,000 members, and 1,100 clubs across 17 countries. The zone includes roughly 45 million people and 15 languages.

6. What is being proposed?

As per the June RI Board meeting, the proposal is to move from 19 districts to 9 districts, effective 1 July 2028, subject to obtaining club approval for the relevant district mergers.

The proposed structure is based primarily on jurisdictional boundaries, while also considering membership balance, cultural needs, business alignment, geography, and existing relationships between districts and communities.

Draft Decisions of the June 2026 Rotary International Board of Directors Meeting

D-2. Zone 8 Regionalization Pilot Update

DECISION: The Board:

1. approves in principle the proposal for Zone 8 redistricting effective 1 July 2028, subject to obtaining club approval for the relevant district mergers;
2. receives the update on the Zone 8 Regionalization Pilot.

7. What are the proposed new districts?

Membership and club metrics are from July 2026 invoice figures.

Reference number	District / Area	Members	Clubs	Current Districts
1	Western Australia	1,652	75	9423
2	South Australia, Northern Territory, Timor-Leste	1,932	93	9510, 9560, 9780
3	Queensland, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Solomon Islands	3,718	191	9560, 9620, 9640
4	New South Wales North	3,538	166	9640, 9660, 9685
5	New South Wales South	2,621	117	9675, 9705, 9790
6	Victoria West, Victoria North	4,078	163	9780, 9790, 9800
7	Victoria, Tasmania	2,686	116	9815, 9830
8	New Zealand North Island, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Niue, Norfolk Island, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna	2,759	123	9910, 9920, 9930
9	New Zealand South	2,512	89	9940, 9999
	Total South Pacific Zone	25,496	1,133	19

8. Have the proposed district numbers been finalised?

No. The district numbers are yet to be determined. They are expected to be considered as part of the consultation and voting process in July and August 2026.

9. Why are some proposed districts much larger geographically than others?

The proposal recognises that Zone 8 includes very different geographic realities. Some proposed districts are geographically vast but have fewer clubs and members, while others are smaller in area but have higher population density and larger membership numbers.

10. What principles guided the redistricting proposal?

The plan seeks to balance jurisdictional boundaries, membership numbers, cultural and regional needs, business and community connections, geography and travel realities, long-term sustainability, and stronger club support and leadership development.

11. What approval is being requested from the RI Board?

The request was for the RI Board to approve the redistricting plan in principle, effective 1 July 2028, subject to club approval for the relevant district mergers.

12. Will Rotary clubs have a say?

Yes. Rotary Club voting is planned for July 2026, where required. This applies to specific district mergers involving two or more districts all with more than 1,100 members, and to situations where more than 10 clubs are moving districts based on 1 July 2026 membership metrics. As per RCP Article 17.010.5. Districting.

13. Will Rotaract clubs have a say?

Yes. Rotaract clubs will be given the opportunity to share their opinions in the districts where Rotary Club voting will occur.

14. What are the expected benefits of moving from 19 districts to 9 districts?

The proposed move is intended to create stronger and more vibrant districts, build deeper leadership capacity, provide stronger support for clubs, and create a more sustainable governance structure for the future.

15. What support will be provided during the transition?

RI staff based in the South Pacific office will provide guidance on administrative requirements related to district operations and The Rotary Foundation during the 2027–2028 period. Incoming leaders are encouraged to begin building relationships within the proposed districts ahead of the 1 July 2028 activation date. The Specialist Hub will also showcase experts in various aspects of redistricting based on recent redistricting events.

16. What happens next?

The proposed next steps are:

- July & August 2026: Club voting for relevant district mergers.
- July & August 2026: Open District Governor Nominee selection for 2028–2029.
- October 2026: New District Governor Nominees attend GNLS.
- October 2026 onward: Begin assessing district mergers, funding, governance, and DGND elections.
- 1 July 2028: Activate the new districts.

17. When would the new districts officially begin?

The activation date for the new 9-district structure is 1 July 2028.

18. What should incoming district leaders do now?

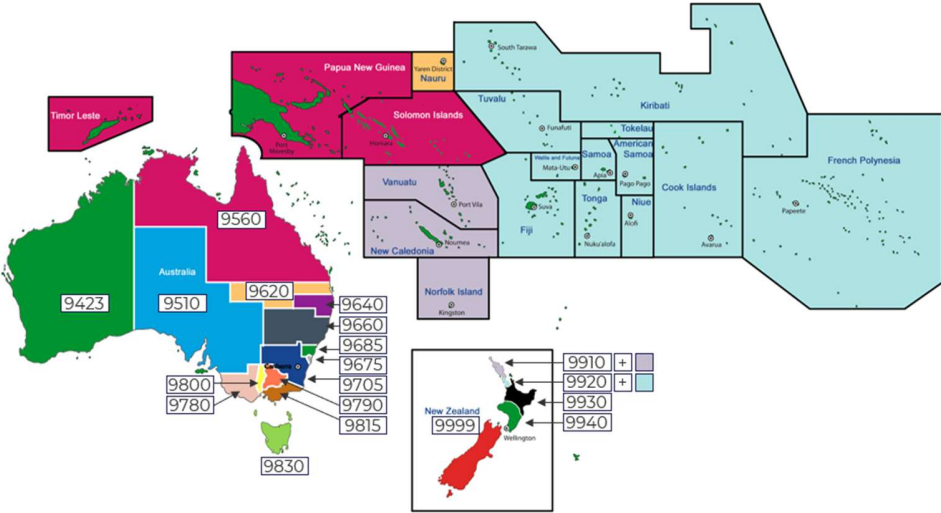
Incoming district leaders are encouraged to begin building relationships across the proposed new districts, preparing for shared governance, and considering how core district activities may be delivered in the future. Examples include planning for programs such as Youth Exchange and events such as PELS.

19. What is the overall message to members and leaders?

This redistricting proposal is described as a significant opportunity to strengthen Rotary in Zone 8, create deeper leadership, provide stronger support to clubs, and build a governance structure that is fit for the future. The presentation thanks district leaders for helping shape the process and acknowledges the bold leadership required to proceed with the plan.

Proposed Redistricting Map Reference

Zone 8: Active 19 Districts



Zone 8: Proposed 9 Districts

