**October 2023 Regionalisation Update Presentation Speaking Notes**

**Slide 1**

*Introduction with country specific welcome*

Introduction of presenter(s)

This presentation will provide you with a summary of some of the key milestones happening as part of the Zone 8 Regionalisation Pilot over the next few months, including two key ways you can take part and have your say as the Pilot progresses.

**Slide 2**

Following a presentation to the Rotary International Board on 18 October, the RI Board has approved the formation of the Regional Council as its own legal entity. This is an essential step that will allow the Regional Council to function fully, enabling it to complete tasks such as entering contracts and managing its own finances.

After extensive consultation, the Governors-Elect of Zone 8 have approved the first batch of functions that will be transferred from Districts to the Pilot operating model, as well as a staged approach to the transfer of additional functions later on in the Pilot. The specific details of the duties and responsibilities being transferred is currently being worked out in more detail.

For clubs, there are two other important Pilot milestones currently in progress that require your input before the end of the month.

Voting in the Regional Council election is currently open. This is your chance to choose the people who will lead Zone 8 for the next few years, so make sure your club gets their vote in.

This month, clubs will also submit their Club Preferences form outlining how they’d like to be grouped with other clubs in Rotary Community Groups.

We’ll go into more detail about how you can take part in both of these opportunities a little later on.

**Slide 3**

In this timeline, you’ll see that we have some more key milestones coming up in the next few months.

* After a fifteen-day objection period, the elected candidates on the Regional Council will officially be confirmed on 15 November, and the Regional Council will begin operating from 1 January 2024.
* Once clubs have submitted their Club Preferences form, they will be placed into Rotary Community Groups in November. These Groups will elect their leaders in February.
* Applications for the new Rotary Specialist role will open in February 2024, with selection beginning in March.
* And finally, the Portfolio Committees on the Regional Council will be formed in March 2024.

**Slide 4**

As part of the Pilot, we’re testing out a new operating model to provide greater support to clubs and increase collaboration across the Zone so we can grow our membership and enhance our impact.

Looking at this new operating model, you’ll notice clubs and members are at its core. That’s because YOU are the lifeblood of Rotary and Rotaract.

Clubs and members are the ones who deliver the amazing projects that change lives in their community and communities around the world.

Clubs and members like you are the ones who nurture potential members and turn them into lifelong Rotarians and Rotaractors.

As club members you’ll still get to decide when, where and how you hold your club meetings, and the best way of running your club. You’ll still have the same leadership roles within your club, and you’ll still get to run the projects and programs that you’re passionate about.

What will change is the support network around you.

This support network will include three new types of volunteer roles.

* First is the Regional Council, which will represent and support clubs in Zone 8 with a consistent strategy and voice.
* Second are Rotary Community Leaders, who will facilitate collaboration between groups of clubs and connect clubs and members with the support resources they need.
* Third are Rotary Specialists. Each Specialist will be an expert in a particular field, drawing on their proven skills and knowledge to advise and support clubs who request their guidance in their field of expertise.

**Slide 5**

Here’s an overview of the Regional Council’s structure and its key roles.

The positions in bold are the ones that clubs are currently voting on in the Regional Council election.

The Chair will lead the Regional Council, ensuring it focuses on its agreed mission and vision.

While preparing for their future role as Chair, the Chair-Elect will be responsible for developing, communicating, and managing the Zone Strategic Plan and ensuring the voices of all countries and regions are heard.

There will be six Portfolio Leads in key areas such as Membership and Major Fundraising and Grants, with each Lead supported by their own Portfolio Committee.

The Rotaract Nominee will ensure Rotaract is considered as the Regional Council develops new programs and initiatives.

After the Regional Council election, a Multi-National Advisory Committee will be formed. This team will be made up of representatives from different countries in the Zone to ensure the diverse voices in our region are heard.

The Rotary Community Leader Nominee will be elected in 2024, after Rotary Community Leaders have been selected.

The Corporate and Administration role will be a *non-voting position* on the Regional Council. Its role description is currently being finalised.

Please note existing District structures will remain in place during the pilot.

**Slide 6**

Voting is now open for the Chair, Portfolio Leads and Rotaract Nominee positions on the Regional Council.

This is an important chance for clubs to have their say in the future of Rotary and Rotaract in our Zone.

To ensure your club’s voice is heard, make sure your club submits their vote by 12pm on Tuesday 31 October Australian Eastern Daylight Time.

Successful candidates will be announced on 1 November, and confirmed on 15 November once the objection period is over.

Regional Council candidates will then undergo training in preparation for the Council’s launch on 1 January 2024.

**Slide 7**

Every Rotary and Rotaract club can vote **once** for each position they are eligible to vote for. Club Presidents will vote on behalf of their club unless they’ve selected another Club Officer to vote instead.

A preferential voting system is being used, and each club’s vote will be weighted equally regardless of their membership numbers.

Please note that only Regional Council roles that received more than one eligible application will appear on the ballot.

If you’re a Rotary Club President, you should have received an email on Tuesday 17 October from our voting platform, Simply Voting, containing a link to vote. This link is unique to you, can only be used once and cannot be forwarded to anyone else.

If you’re a Rotaract Club President, you should have received two such emails from Simply Voting. This is because you’ll need to submit two ballots: one for the Regional Council positions all clubs can vote for, and one especially for the Rotaract Nominee position – which only Rotaractors can vote on.

Make sure to check your junk or spam folders if you can’t find these emails.

If you haven’t received any emails from Simply Voting, please email Zone8Elections@rotary.org for assistance.

**Slide 8**

There are resources available on the Creating Tomorrow website to guide you through the voting process.

You can review the full list of candidates up for election, along with short promotional statements submitted by each candidate.

You can also read a short guide on how to vote, and access a more in-depth explanation of the preferential voting system being used.

**Slide 9**

Through the Regional Council election process, six Portfolio Leads specialising in key areas relevant to the functioning of Rotary and Rotaract in our Zone are currently being selected.

After the election, six Portfolio Committees will be formed to support each Portfolio Lead to achieve their outcomes across the Zone.

The six Portfolio Committees are:

* Membership
* Public Image and Partnership
* Service Projects and Programs
* Major Fundraising and Grants
* Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
* Learning, Development and Events

**Slide 10**

The scope, terms of reference and structure of each Committee is currently being finalised. Position descriptions for Portfolio Committee members will be made available in November.

The members of these Committees will be appointed rather than elected, with the first batch selected by the Pilot Steering Group, the Regional Council, and the Leads of relevant Regionalisation Establishment Teams.

These Committee members will be experienced Rotarians or Rotaractors who have a wealth of proven expertise in fields relevant to their specific Portfolio area, including current and former District Governors, District Membership Chairs, Rotary Coordinators and Public Image Coordinators.

General applications for Portfolio Committee roles will open in late January, with additional calls for Committee members made as required. These applications will be vetted by an Application Review Panel to ensure they meet the selection criteria.

Committee members will be selected to ensure they reflect the diversity of Zone 8, representing the diverse countries, cultures, and perspectives in our Zone.

**Slide 11**

As part of the Regionalisation Pilot, a new way of grouping Rotary and Rotaract clubs will soon be introduced. Each group will be known as a Rotary Community Group (RCG).

These groups are designed to foster greater collaboration among clubs so they can work more effectively and at a larger scale than they could on their own.

RCGs will be based on what clubs have in common, such as geography, with clubs potentially located close together or spread further apart. They may also be the same type of club, such as an online or passport club, or have another feature in common, such as a shared language.

RCGs will meet in person, online, or a combination of both, and will choose how often they meet.

Clubs will also be able to nominate a secondary way they prefer to be grouped. For instance, clubs in a secondary grouping may share a passion for the environment, or for assisting people experiencing homelessness. Secondary groupings are optional, informal and will mainly be online.

**Slide 12**

Clubs will specify how they want to be grouped via the Club Preferences form that was sent to Club Presidents and Secretaries on Wednesday 20 September.

If you did not receive this email, please email Michelle.Gallace@Rotary.org for assistance.

It is expected that clubs will have a club forum or workshop to discuss the questions together and gather members’ views. A club’s preferences are not up to a club’s President or Board to decide alone.

The responses in the Club Preferences form need to reflect the majority view of club members. Each club will submit one form only.

The Regionalisation Team and District leaders will use the responses provided in the form to determine the best groupings for clubs.

Club preferences will be accommodated as much as possible. When not possible, we’ll engage with the clubs involved to discuss available options and assist them with finding their best fit.

All clubs will be allocated to an RCG whether or not they submit a Club Preferences form by the deadline. However, this is an important chance for clubs to have a say in how they’d like to move forward, and to take advantage of this unique opportunity to explore new ways of collaborating with other clubs.

To ensure your club can be placed in the best grouping possible to suit your interests and needs, make sure your club submits its preferences by 11:59pm on 29 October Australian Eastern Daylight Time.

**Slide 13**

There are numerous resources available on the *Creating Tomorrow* website to help your club complete their Club Preferences form.

This includes a short video and a PowerPoint presentation with accompanying speaking notes, outlining what RCGs are, how they will operate and how to fill out the form.

There is also a printable and shareable PDF document containing the full questions featured in the Club Preferences form, which you can share with your club to help you come up with your responses before submitting them through the online form.

**Slide 14**

Many Rotarians and Rotaractors already offer their talents and time to their clubs, their Districts and the global Rotary community, whether in formal committees or positions, in projects or at events.

The new Rotary Specialist role being introduced as part of the Pilot is another way for you to use your skills to help clubs reach their goals.

Rotary Specialists will act as volunteer consultants, providing expert advice in their area of specialty. They will direct clubs and members to online resources and other specialists, give guidance, and support clubs with their projects, events and general functioning.

It is not an operational role. If you become a Rotary Specialist, this will not prevent you from becoming involved in other positions in the Regionalisation Pilot operating model.

There may be numerous specialists in the same subject area to cover the geography of Zone 8, and we hope to attract people with expertise in a wide range of fields.

People who are currently or have previously supported clubs in District positions are strongly encouraged to apply to become Rotary Specialists.

However, you do not have to have held a leadership position in Rotary at a District or club level to apply.

The full position description and selection criteria for the Rotary Specialist role is now available on the *Creating Tomorrow* website.

Applications will open in February 2024.

**Slide 15**

These are some examples of the wide range of fields in which Rotary Specialists may have expertise:

* Club compliance
* Collaboration software
* Conflict resolution
* Marketing/public image
* Membership recruitment and retention
* Rotary Insurance
* Event management
* Club visioning and strategic planning
* Specific Rotary programs and projects such as the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

This list is not exhaustive. If your field of expertise is relevant to clubs, then you could be a Rotary Specialist.

You may have formal qualifications such as a diploma or university degree in your field of expertise, but this is not required. You may have gained experience through your involvement in Rotary, or outside Rotary through your career. As long as you have expertise in your chosen field, you can apply for the Rotary Specialist role.

**Slide 16**

A key component of the Pilot is to have the Regional Council provide governance and operational support at a Zone-wide level. Starting in early 2024, certain duties and functions currently carried out by Districts and District leaders will gradually be transferred to the Regional Council, Rotary Community Leaders and Rotary Specialists.

This change is intended to foster more consistent and efficient provision of support to clubs across Zone 8, and to establish a more unified voice for Rotary and Rotaract.

The transformation of select functions to the Pilot operating model will occur mostly during the 2024-25 Rotary year but will extend into 2025-26 for some functions.

Districts and District Governors will remain in place, working with the Regional Council and other key actors in the Pilot’s operating model to ensure clubs are supported at all times.

Current club and District arrangements regarding The Rotary Foundation will also remain.

Certain duties and functions related to Membership, Public Image, Interact, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will move to the Regional Council and Rotary Community Leaders as part of the first transfer in June 2024. These fields have been identified by the Governor group, the related Regionalisation Establishment Teams and the Steering Group as key areas where the Pilot’s operating model can help Zone 8 achieve its goals.

From June 2024, Rotary Community Leaders will primarily be responsibility for supporting clubs.

**Slide 17**

For regular updates on the Pilot, visit the *Creating Tomorrow* website, look out for our monthly email updates in your inbox, and follow the new Facebook page.

You can reach out to the Pilot team with any questions or feedback by emailing RotaryRegionalPilot@gmail.com, and they will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you have a specific question about elections, email Zone8Elections@rotary.org.

The Regionalisation Pilot is all about empowering and supporting clubs in our region to ensure you can continue your amazing work for many years to come.

Let’s work together to secure the future of Rotary and Rotaract.