

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Australian National Audit Office  
**Outcome/Program:**  
**Topic:** WestConnex

**Senator:** Rhiannon

**Question reference number:** 120

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 1 April 2016

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

The updated business case has a cost of \$16.8– a \$6.8 billion cost blowout and climbing from when it was initially announced in 2012. How does this affect the likelihood of an audit?

**Answer:**

A potential performance audit relating to both the \$1.5 billion in direct funding and a \$2 billion concessional loan for the WestConnex Project was included in the ANAO's Audit Work Program published in July 2015. The Auditor-General is preparing his new forward work program. The matters raised in questions 117 to 122 will be taken into account in making a decision about whether to proceed to undertake a performance audit relating to the WestConnex project, and the scope and objectives of any such audit. Consistent with past practices, a draft of the ANAO's forward work program is expected to be provided to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit in April 2016 to assist the Committee to perform its role in determining the audit priorities of the Parliament.