

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: Political donations

Senator: Rhiannon

Question reference number: 122

Type of question: Written

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Political donations disclosures for 2014-15 were released last week. It's been revealed that a major toll road operator, Transurban, donated over \$17,000 to Liberal party branches and made payments totalling over \$100,000 to a Liberal-aligned fundraising vehicle (probably dividends from share-holdings). Does the Office consider donations and payments like these when assessing the need for 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.