

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 28  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Sustainability Policy and Analysis Division  
**Topic:** ACCESS  
**Hansard Page:** 72  
**Question Date:** 27 May 2014  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Pratt asked:**

Senator PRATT: Thank you for contextualising that, Ms Jensen. Some of the funds for ACCESS will possibly come out of that \$25 million a year and it may or may not have other sources, so do we not yet know if there will be any impact that the consolidations and cuts will have on the 20 members and staff?

Senator Birmingham: As you will appreciate, science and research programs generally speaking tend to fund programs that run for a particular period, so out of a science or research program they will fund individual projects that run for a particular time. Those projects complete; new projects are funded. I do not know the particular one you are referring to off the top of my head, but it is not that there would necessarily be an expectation that that would continue for ever and ever. Discrete projects are funded out of these types of programs all of the time and that, I imagine, is how the new program will operate. If on a merits basis against the guidelines it warrants funding for a longer period out of the new program then it may secure that funding, or it may not.

Senator PRATT: Can you take on notice, then, whether ACCESS is projected to conclude its work within its currently funded time period, by June 2016.

Senator Birmingham: I am sure we can take that on notice. I imagine they would have a whole range of project deliverables to complete in that time in accordance with their funding contracts.

**Answer:**

The Australian Community Climate Earth System Simulator (ACCESS) is the computer model that forms the basis of the Bureau of Meteorology's numerical weather prediction and climate simulations. ACCESS is funded from a number of sources, some of which will extend beyond June 2016. The work of ACCESS will therefore continue beyond that date.