





# Investigating the effects of a changing climate on siting of renewables

# Dr Merlinde Kay



# **Energy Meteorology**

- Energy Forecasting investigates how climate and weather influence the energy sector. My research group uses the connection between energy and meteorology to develop models that lead to promotion of cost-effective and sustainable weather and climate risk management strategies for the Energy industry
  - Resource assessment
  - Siting and planning
  - Forecasting and optimisation
  - Assist in technology design
  - Building optimisation









# **Ongoing Projects at UNSW**

- Utilising weather models for building energy management optimisation
- Wind forecasting and assessment
- Hybrid forecasting and optimisation of battery storage
- Distributed Forecasting
- Aerosol modelling/forecasting for CST







# **Characterising Variability**

- Analysing weather data and insolation
  - Identifying weather patterns that correlate to periods of high and low power production
  - Predictability of these weather events at appropriate levels of aggregation











# Total change in DNI from 1990-2012





# Where should new wind and solar energy sites be located to avoid climate and financial risk?

- The aim of this project is to minimise the risk in investing in potential wind and solar energy sites.
- How will climate change affect the choice of future renewable sites?
- Where would investments be most or least risky? Can we identify sites that will remain optimal and economically viable in 20 years' time as weather and climate change?



A/Prof Jason Evans, Dr Abhnil Prasad and Prof Andy Pitman





# **Regional Climate Projections**

 We use a regional climate ensemble and separately downscale four global climate models (MIROC3.2-medres, ECHAM5, CCCMA3.1, and CSIRO-Mk3.0) using the Weather Forecasting and Research (WRF) modeling system version 3.3.





- This created a 12-member ensemble for three time periods:
  - present (1990–2009),
  - near future (2020–2039),
  - far future (2060–2079)<sup>,</sup>. All future simulations used the SRES A2 emissions scenario.

Skamarock, W.C., Klemp, J.B., Dudhia, J., Gill, D.O., Barker, D.M., Wang, W., Powers, J.G., 2008. A description of the advanced research WRF version 2. NCAR Technical Note. NCAR/TN-475+STR, 123 pp.

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Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

Olson, R., Evans, J., Di Luca, A., Argüeso, D., 2016. The NARCliM project: model agreement and significance of climate projections. Climate Research 2, 29-17. SN doi:10.3354/cr01403 Nakicenovic N, Swart R (eds) (2000) special report on emissions scenarios: a special report of Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. R A L I

# **Extractable Wind Power (EWP)**

• The amount of power that can be extracted from wind turbines – 80m hub height





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# **Levelised Cost of Electricity (LCOE)**

• Minimum cost at which a generator must sell the produced electricity in order to break even\*



\* The calculation of LCOE and the assumptions used are based on the Aus Energy Technology Assessment Reports [https://www.industry.gov.au/Offic the-Chief-Economist/Publications/Documents/aeta/AETA-Update-Dec-13.pdf, https://www.industry.gov.au/Office-of-the-Chief-

Economist/Publications/Documents/aeta/australian\_energy\_technology\_assessm ent.pdf

# **Comparison between Existing and proposed sites**





# **Future Projections**

• Future generation traces for solar



# **Thank You**

