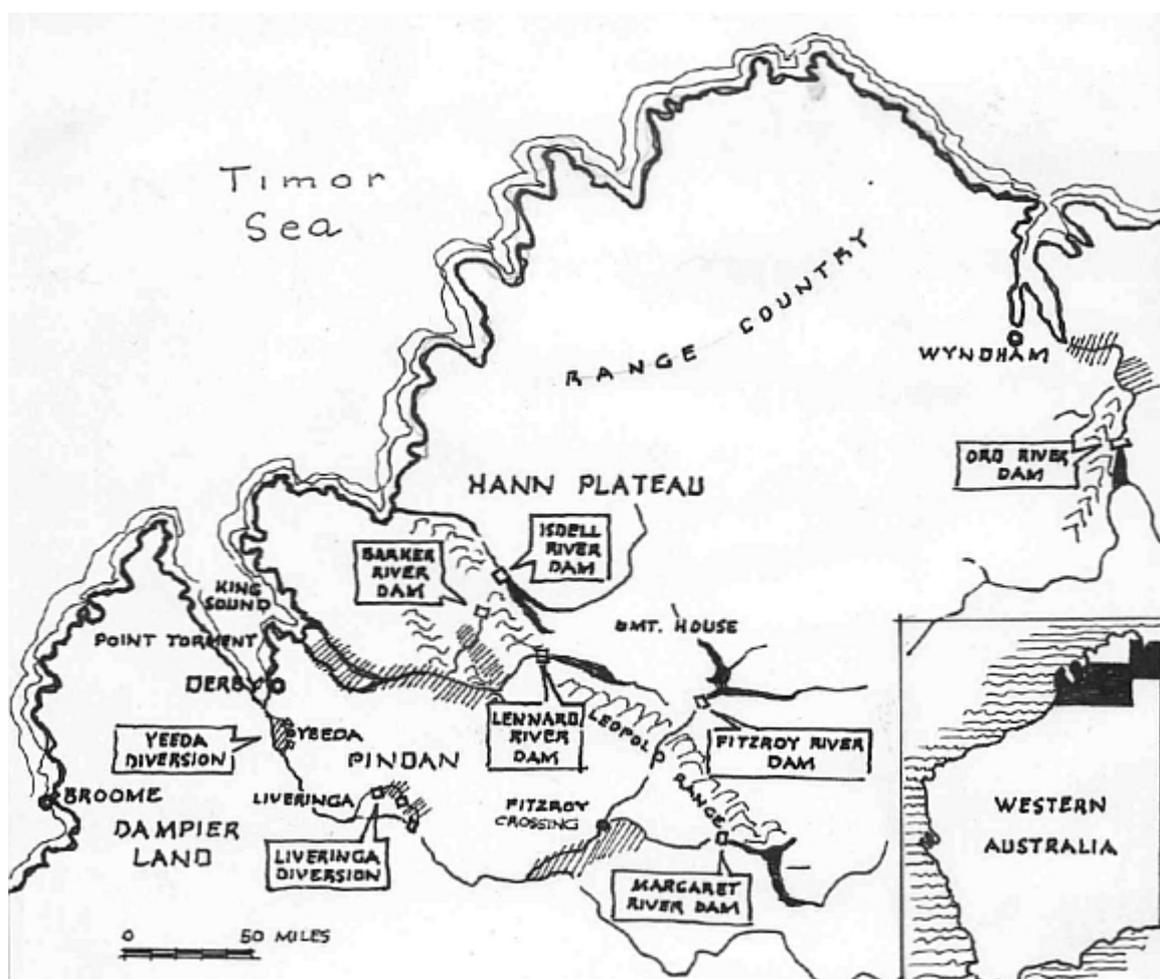


**KHS “Looking Back” Column – for the Kimberley Echo, Thursday March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011.**

During 1960 the State Government was investigating the possibilities of a dam at Dimond Gorge, where the Fitzroy River cuts through the King Leopold Ranges. Surveyor Kevin Pownall led a party of 15 men from the Lands Department and the Public Works Department (PWD), for an arduous three months surveying. Using four Land Rovers and a five ton truck, they travelled along bridle paths where motor vehicles had never been before. The PWD Party, remained at the head of the gorge doing cross-sectioning work and the other four survey parties worked upstream plotting a network of trig points and making levels. “It took six men four days to clear a mile-long track over sheet rock to give access to a pocket of country where the dammed river would flood through two ravines.” In June 1960 the area was photographed from a chartered DC3 aircraft manned by the Lands Department's own air crew. In Perth, cartographers formed the series of photographs into a map, adding levels and trig points established by the ground party. Then using the multiplex instrument they produced a twin set of aerial photographs as a single three dimensional plan. The PWD was to take the next step in investigating the Fitzroy River dam site by establishing a gauging station to measure the flow of water through the gorge. A decision to go ahead with construction of a dam, was not likely to be until construction of the main Ord dam was well under way.



*Map drawn by William A. Durack for a Kimberley Michael Durack submission circa late 1950's. The map shows possible dam sites with cross hatched areas showing irrigable land.*

*KHS Archive No. KHS-2010-10-18-Bill-Durack-Proposed-Dams-Map-c1950s*