



**Multimedia Library Collection: Environment and History (journal)**

## **"Nature, Progress and the 'Disorderly' Fitzroy: The Vain Quest for Queensland's 'Noblest Navigable River', 1865–1965"**

Webster, Barbara, and Steve Mullins

Webster, Barbara, and Steve Mullins. "Nature, Progress and the 'Disorderly' Fitzroy: The Vain Quest for Queensland's 'Noblest Navigable River,' 1865–1965." *Environment and History* 9, no. 3 (Aug., 2003): doi:10.3197/096734003129342854. In the nineteenth century, engineers deformed and reshaped the natural environment in the name of progress, particularly in new settler societies like Australia. This article focuses on attempts, some experimental but all ultimately unsuccessful, to render Queensland's Fitzroy River suitable for large-scale shipping by constructing 'training' walls and dredging intensively. In addition to examining the motivations for these efforts and their environmental legacy, the paper argues that both engineers and men of commerce saw nature as 'untamed' and female and in need of training or 'husbanding' through the application of modern technology, irrespective of the financial cost. All rights reserved. © 2003 The White Horse Press

**Download:**

PDF: [https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key\\_docs/webster-mullins-9-3.pdf](https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/webster-mullins-9-3.pdf)

**Related links:**

- *Environment and History* at The White Horse Press  
<http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EH.html>

**Websites linked in this text:**

- <http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096734003129342854>