

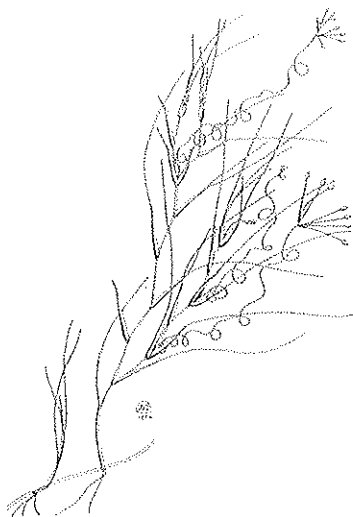
## In brief

### BRACKISH WETLANDS CAN STILL HAVE VALUE FOR WILDLIFE

Even though some lakes may be going saline, at the stage when they are simply brackish they can be very productive for certain waterbirds.



Tim Sparks of the Department of Water photographed this nesting swan on Meekin Pool (Steady's Lake), north of Darkan last October. The lake contains large numbers of submerged plants such as *Ruppia* (sea tassel) and the macroalga, *Chara*. They keep the water oxygenated and so lower the chance of algal blooms in the system, as well as harbouring huge numbers of aquatic microinvertebrates. All are ideal food for many waterbirds.



Ruppia



Chara

If your brackish lakes contain these plants, that is an excellent sign that they remain a valuable habitat.