

# Lakebeds



## Landform

Shallow depressions and lakebeds.

## Woody vegetation

Open shrublands of samphires, grasslands, sedgeland and ephemeral herblands. River Cooba may be present. Occurrences of parkinsonia.

## Expected pasture composition

*\* Denotes non-native "Expected Pasture Composition" species.*

*@ Denotes non-grass species that are important to grazing and land condition values in ephemeral lake and swamp land types.*

### Preferred

Saltbush@, marine couch.

### Intermediate

Samphire@, brown beetle grass, lovegrasses, fringe rushes@.

### Non-preferred

### Annual grasses

Comet grass, button grass.

### Common forbs

Spreading nut-heads, red spinach. Non-preferred species include copperburr.

## Suitable sown pastures

Generally unsuitable, some buffel grass.

## Introduced weeds

Parkinsonia.

## Soil

Shallow sandy loam over saline clay or hardpan.

### Description

**Surface:** Soft; **Surface texture:** sandy loam; **Subsoil texture:** clay.

### Water availability

Low

### Rooting depth

Shallow

<b>Fertility</b>	Low; low nutrient status.
<b>Salinity</b>	High
<b>Sodicity</b>	High
<b>pH</b>	Mildly alkaline surface and neutral subsoil.
<b>Utilisation</b>	10%
<b>Enterprise</b>	Breeding
<b>Land use and management recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable for restricted grazing. Capable of low pasture growth.</li> <li>• Cover of any trees, shrubs, grass or annual forbs is beneficial to the stability of this land type.</li> </ul>
<b>Land use limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vegetation is limited to plants that are tolerant of sodic clays and saline conditions. The added effect of windblown sand particles abrading plant tissue restricts plant growth.</li> <li>• Generally low erosion hazard. Can be prone to wind erosion along open areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation features and related management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both Lake Galilee and Lake Buchanan are wetlands of national significance, and have been widely recognised as providing significant waterbird habitat for seasonal migratory waterbirds when they are inundated. Large populations of pelicans, black swans, broilgas, ducks (freckled, hardhead, whistling, pink-eared, black), straw-necked ibis, white-faced herons, Caspian terns, spoonbill species, silver gulls and grey teals have been recorded feeding, breeding and nesting on the lakes.</li> <li>• Apart from the lakes themselves, there are high terrestrial animal values in the samphire, saltbush, herfield and dune woodlands associated with the margins of the lakes; especially as nesting sites for the waterbirds that feed on the lakes. The lake environs provide potential habitat for rare nomadic species that utilise the lake edges (e.g. yellow chat, orange chat, painted snipe).</li> <li>• Parkinsonia infestations can be a problem on these moist areas.</li> <li>• It is recommended that stock do not have direct access to the natural waterholes on the lakes, instead be watered at dams, tanks or troughs adjacent to the lakes.</li> <li>• Artificial watering points and additional fencing may be necessary to decrease grazing pressure on the lake beds. Overgrazing of the ground cover of these lake beds reduces the habitat value of these unique areas for small ground fauna and nesting birds.</li> <li>• Use of herbicides, fertilisers or pesticides (for parkinsonia control) in lake vicinities should only be undertaken with great caution.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional ecosystems</b>	10.3.16d, 10.3.22a-d, 10.3.23a-d, 10.3.24.
<b>DUSLR project land units</b>	LB5, LG7, LG8, PT2.