

Kōura/freshwater crayfish

Paranephrops planifrons

Native

Data deficient

Kōura are native non-migratory crustaceans. Two species live in New Zealand. The Northern Kōura is the smaller species at about 70 millimetres and is found in the North Island and northwest South Island. The larger Southern Kōura is about 80 millimetres long and lives around Stewart Island and the east and south of the South Island.

These crustaceans are generally found in areas of low flow between stones or burrowed into muddy bottoms of freshwater bodies (including streams, lakes, ponds and sometimes swamps). They prefer native forest but are also found in exotic forest and pastoral waterways.

Kōura are scavengers and feed on old leaves and small insects floating in the water or settled on the bottom. Their two front pincers tear the food up and push it into their mouth. They emerge mostly at night and stay hidden during the day.



Photo: Waikato Regional Council



Photo: Waikato Regional Council



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