

# Kōura/Freshwater crayfish

## *Paranephrops planifrons*

Native

Threatened

Kōura are native non-migratory crustaceans. There are two species present in New Zealand the North Island species being smaller (about 70mm long) than the east and south of the South Island (about 80mm long).

These crustaceans are generally found in areas of low flow between stones or burrowed into muddy bottoms of fresh water 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 by in the water or that have 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.

