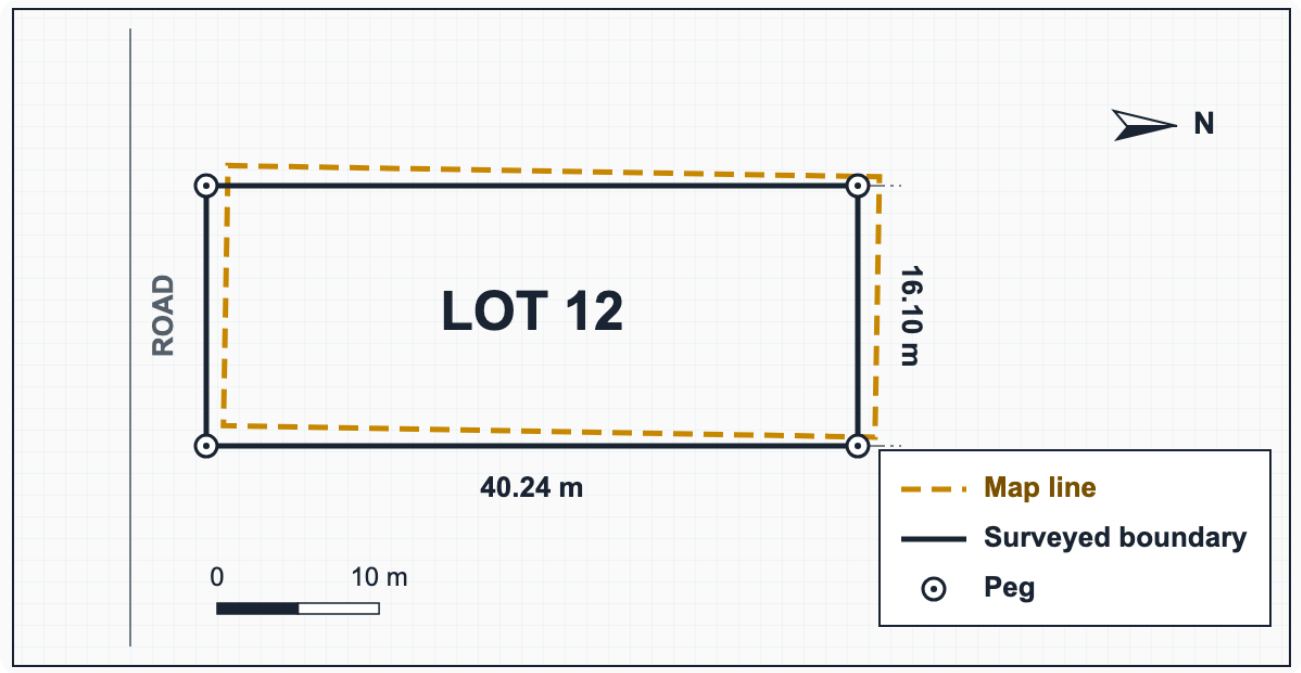
QUEENSLAND GLOBE PROPERTY BOUNDARIES: HOW ACCURATE IS THE LINE?

By City Surveyors Gold Coast · 2026-11-23



The boundary lines on Queensland Globe are a guide to where your lot sits, not a measurement of where your boundary is. The Globe's own help page says the boundaries it shows vary in positional accuracy and are not for measuring or locating a boundary on site (Queensland Globe help, cadastral boundaries). In Queensland your boundary is defined by the survey marks at its corners, and the registered survey plan records the measurements between them.

So there are three layers of boundary information for every Gold Coast block: the line on the map, the plan in the titles registry, and the marks on the ground. Each one is built from something different, and that decides what you can use it for.

General information only, not legal advice. Sources and fees checked 23 November 2026.

Key takeaways

- Queensland Globe is free and good for finding your lot, its plan number and its rough shape. It is not good for measuring, siting a fence or proving an encroachment.
- The map line was first drawn by digitising old cadastral maps and has been improved since, but it is a graphical guide, not the legal boundary.
- The registered survey plan holds the measured bearings, distances and area. An image costs $27.56 from Titles Queensland in 2026-27.
- Your boundary on the ground is where the survey marks are. Only a registered cadastral surveyor can find and reinstate it.

How to see your property boundaries on Queensland Globe

Queensland Globe is the right place to start, as long as you use it for what it is good at.

1. Open Queensland Globe and select Search.
2. Choose street address or lot on plan, and enter your details (Queensland Globe help, search options).
3. Select your lot to see its lot and plan number, and use the Layers panel to show or hide the property boundaries over the aerial photo.
4. If you need a location map, download the free A4 cadastral SmartMap for the lot.

Write down the lot and plan number, such as Lot 12 on a registered plan. Titles Queensland's plan search and a surveyor's quote both start from it.

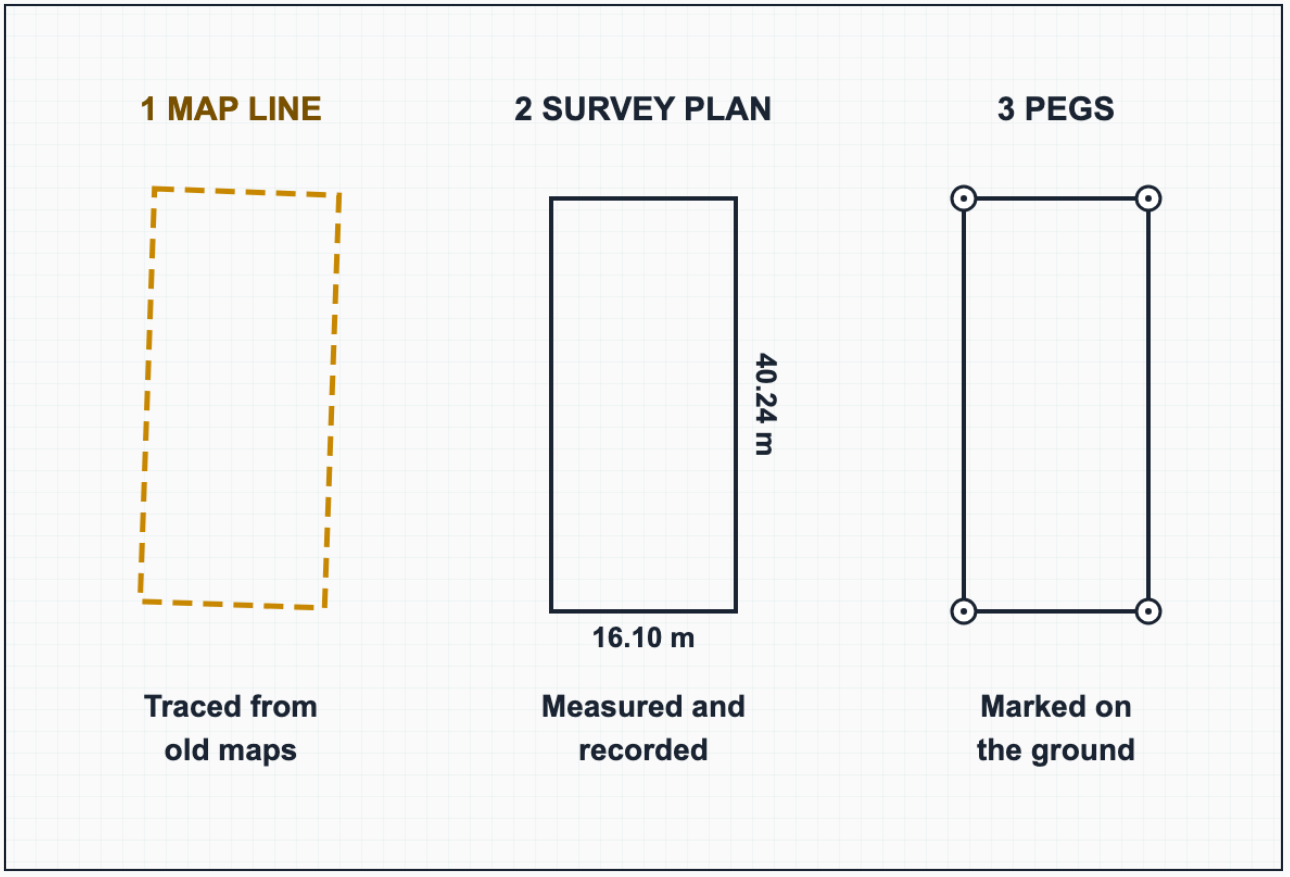
What the boundary line on Queensland Globe is drawn from

The property lines on Queensland Globe come from the state's spatial cadastre, the map of every land parcel in Queensland. It was built by manually digitising the best cadastral maps

available at the time, and the digital capture was finished in 1992 (Business Queensland, positional accuracy of the spatial cadastre).

Because those lines were traced from paper maps of different scales, their accuracy started out anywhere from plus or minus 1 metre to plus or minus 250 metres across the state. An upgrade program, often run with local councils, has improved them since, and the worst positional accuracy in Queensland is now plus or minus 63 metres. Those are statewide figures. The state's accuracy map describes areas, not single lots, and no accuracy figure turns the line into a boundary.

The map has also changed platform. The Queensland Spatial Cadastral Fabric has replaced the old Digital Cadastral Database, and the Globe's help page describes it as "a graphical representation only" that "is not the source of legal boundaries" (Queensland Globe help, cadastral boundaries). The government's dataset listing puts it plainly: the map is the point of truth for how boundaries are drawn, not for the legal boundary, which "will always be the plan of survey or the related titling information" (Cadastral data, Queensland series).



Why you cannot measure your boundary on the screen

It is tempting to use the Globe's measuring tool, or to lay the boundary over the aerial photo and see where the fence falls. The Globe's help pages warn against both.

The cadastral boundaries help page says the Globe should not be used for:

- boundary dimensions
- whether something encroaches over a boundary
- where a boundary sits on site
- where buildings and other improvements sit on site
- the edges of physical features such as creeks and rivers.

It adds that the true location of a boundary "is not determined using coordinates or imagery", and can only be found by a registered cadastral surveyor who measures the physical evidence on the ground and reinstates the boundary.

There is a second reason. Queensland Globe displays everything in a web map projection that keeps shapes and directions but not true distances and areas, and its printed maps copy the screen with the same distortion. Its help page on locational accuracy concludes that using the Globe "for the purposes of precise measurement is not advised" (Queensland Globe help, mapping fundamentals).

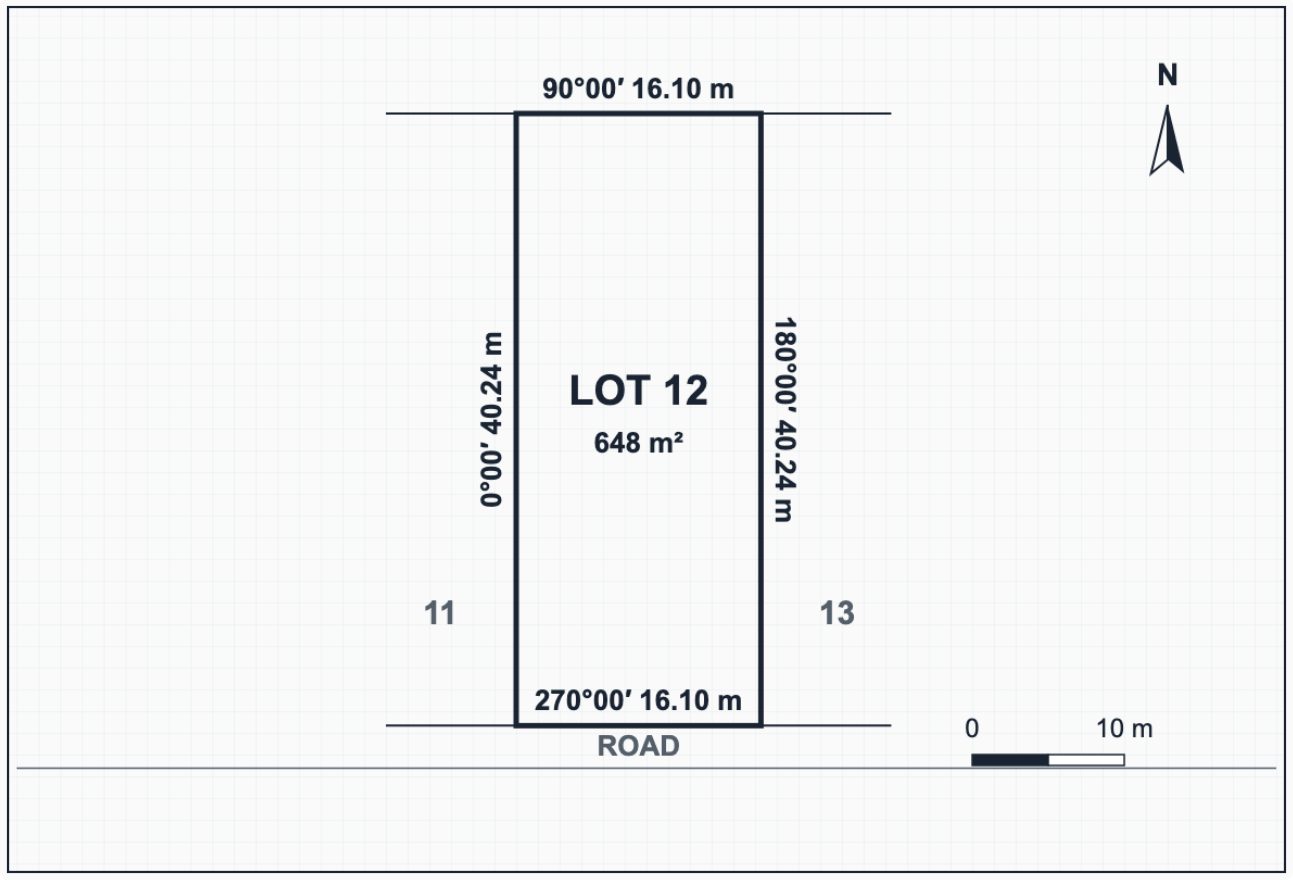
So if the fence looks a metre off the line on your screen, that tells you nothing either way. The map line and the measuring tool can each be out by more than the gap you are looking at, and the photo cannot locate a boundary either.

The free SmartMap is built from the same map data. It shows your property's boundary, the parcels next to it and key property information (Business Queensland, free maps). It is useful to hand a designer or a council officer as a location map. It is not a survey plan.

What the registered survey plan adds

The registered survey plan is the record of the survey that created or last defined your lot. A cadastral survey plan is a technical and legal document prepared by a registered cadastral

surveyor. It shows the lot identifiers, the bearings and distances of each boundary, and the area (Business Queensland, survey plans). The certificate of title for each lot refers to its current plan.



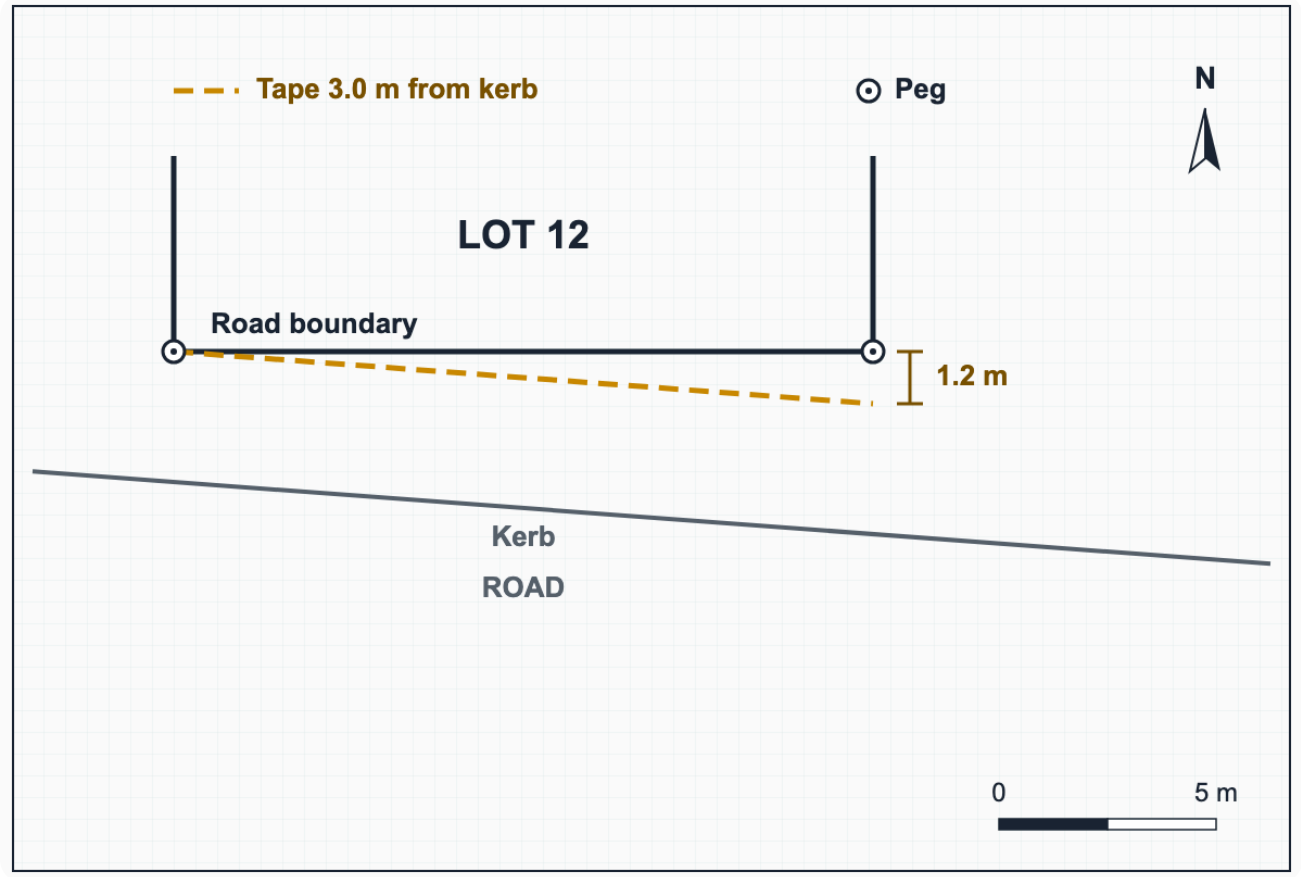
You can order an image of your plan through Titles Queensland's online search service, using the lot and plan number from your rates notice or from Queensland Globe. The current price list shows an image of a survey plan at $27.56 and a current title search at $25.71 (Titles Queensland, title searches). Those are the 2026-27 fees, which change each 1 July.

The plan is a big step up from the map, because its numbers come from a survey rather than from tracing. It still has limits:

- It does not show buildings, unless the lot is a building unit, and it does not show contours.
- It does not give the distance from the kerb to the boundary, so you cannot find your boundary by measuring from the kerb.

- The current plan can be very old, and may date from the 1900s, while a nearby lot may have a newer plan. On the Gold Coast that can mean an older plan for your lot and a recent one next door.
- It may not show every easement, because an easement can be created by a different plan. A title search lists them. Our guide on how to find easements on your property walks through that check.

Most of all, a plan is a drawing on paper. It tells you the length and direction of your rear boundary. It does not tell you where that line is in your backyard today, after decades of fences, gardens, driveways and retaining walls.



Marks on the ground decide where the boundary is

In Queensland, "property boundaries are defined by the survey marks (usually white pegs) placed at the boundary corners. They are not defined by GPS points or coordinates" (Business Queensland, survey marks and property boundaries).

Only surveyors registered with the Surveyors Board of Queensland can carry out cadastral surveys. A survey that finds and re-marks existing boundaries is called an identification survey. The surveyor works from the registered plans and the marks and evidence on site, places the corner pegs, and lodges a plan as the official record. If a fence, wall or building sits on, near or over the line, the surveyor must notify the affected owners in writing, and that notice is a record to advise only, not a demand to fix anything.

The plan records the boundary and the marks show it on the ground. Where the two do not seem to agree on site, working out the correct position from all the evidence is the surveyor's job.

Once the pegs are in, treat them with care. Interfering with a survey mark is an offence under section 42 of the Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003, with a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units. The Act lists a few exceptions, including disturbing a boundary mark to put up a fence, wall or other permanent structure along that boundary, so a fencer can work to the pegs. If a peg is in the way of anything else, ask the surveyor before anyone moves it.

Map, plan or pegs: how the three compare

Compare	Queensland Globe line	Registered survey plan	Pegs on the ground
Built from	Old cadastral maps, digitised and upgraded over time	Measurements from the survey that defined the lot	A registered surveyor's measurement of the evidence on site
What the government calls it	A graphical representation only	The legal record of the boundary	What defines the boundary
Cost	Free	$27.56 for an image (2026-27)	The cost of a boundary survey

Compare	Queensland Globe line	Registered survey plan	Pegs on the ground
Good for	Finding your lot and plan number and its rough shape	Lengths, directions and area of each boundary	Building, fencing or settling where the line is
Not for	Measuring, siting or proving an encroachment	Finding the line in your yard	Deciding who owns a fence or who pays

Which boundary record do you need for your job?

Match the layer to the decision you are about to make.

What you are doing	What to use
Finding your lot and plan number, or a first look at the block's shape	Queensland Globe
Briefing a designer on lot size and frontage	The registered survey plan, then a detail survey for levels and features
Replacing a dividing fence	Pegs on the line the fence follows
A pool, extension or slab close to a boundary	Pegs on that boundary before the design is final
Buying, when a fence or building looks off line	Pegs on the boundaries that matter, before you sign
A neighbour says the fence is on their land	Pegs, then legal advice if you still disagree

Wherever the answer is pegs, that is a boundary survey. A detail or contour survey is a different job: the boundaries on those plans are often plotted from existing survey records

and not checked on site. If your design runs close to a line, ask for that boundary to be marked as part of the same visit.

If the question is a disagreement rather than a measurement, the survey settles where the line is, not who is right. Business Queensland points neighbours to dispute resolution, legal advice and the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The rules on sharing a dividing fence are in the Neighbourhood Disputes (Dividing Fences and Trees) Act 2011.

Need the line, not the map?

Tell us what you are building, fencing or buying. We will tell you which boundaries need pegs and agree the marks and plan before we start.

GET A FREE QUOTE | CALL (07) 5553 1570

From a line on the screen to pegs on the ground

When the map is not enough, a boundary survey turns the plan back into marks you can build to. We compare the registered survey plans and title information with the evidence on site, then mark or report the boundary positions agreed for the job. It identifies the boundaries that already exist. It does not move them or change who owns what.

Pegs in the ground before the fencer or concreter arrives are the simplest way to build on the right line the first time, rather than finding out afterwards.

To get a firm quote quickly, send us:

- the property address, and the lot and plan number from your rates notice or Queensland Globe
- which boundaries matter, and why: a fence, a pool, an extension, a purchase or a question from a neighbour
- a screenshot of what you saw on the map, if that is what started the question
- your timing, especially if a fencer or builder is already booked.

Not sure what a survey like this costs? Our guide to boundary survey cost on the Gold Coast explains what changes the price and how to compare quotes.

We work across the Gold Coast from our office at 96B Upton St, Bundall. Call (07) 5553 1570 or send the details through our contact page, and we will tell you which survey fits the job.

Frequently asked questions

▼ Is Queensland Globe accurate for property boundaries?

It is accurate enough to find your lot and see its rough shape, not to measure or site anything. The Globe's own help page says the boundary positions it shows vary in accuracy and should not be used for boundary dimensions, encroachments or boundary locations on site. Business Queensland says the worst positional accuracy of the state's map data is currently plus or minus 63 metres.

▼ How do I find my property boundary line in Queensland?

Start with Queensland Globe to find your lot and plan number, then order the registered survey plan from Titles Queensland ($27.56 in 2026-27) for the measured lengths and directions. To find the line on the ground, you need a registered cadastral surveyor to carry out an identification survey and place pegs at the corners.

▼ Can I put up a fence using the Queensland Globe line?

No. The Globe's help page says its lines should not be used to locate a boundary on site, and in Queensland the boundary is defined by the survey marks at its corners. To check whether a fence is on the common boundary, Business Queensland's advice is

to engage a registered cadastral surveyor to carry out an identification survey. For a new fence, the same survey gives your fencer pegs to build to.

▼ Is a SmartMap from Queensland Globe a survey plan?

No. A SmartMap is a free location map made from the same map data as the Globe. It shows your property, the lots around it and key property information, but it is not a survey and it does not carry the measured bearings and distances of the registered survey plan.

▼ Can I move a survey peg?

Generally, no. Interfering with a survey mark is an offence under section 42 of the Survey and Mapping Infrastructure Act 2003, with a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units. The Act lists a few exceptions, such as putting up a fence, wall or other permanent structure along a boundary. Business Queensland adds that a registered surveyor may disturb marks while undertaking a survey. If a peg is in the way, ask the surveyor first.

Build to the pegs, not the picture

Free advice on which boundaries your job needs, with the marks and plan agreed up front, anywhere on the Gold Coast.

GET A FREE QUOTE | CALL (07) 5553 1570