



### **Fences at Your Property:**

Ipswich City Council does not get involved in disputes over fences separating adjoining blocks of land (dividing fences). The State Government is responsible for fencing regulations.

### **Building a Dividing Fence:**

If you want to put up a dividing fence you should give your neighbour a notice with these details:

- Where the fence is to be erected
- The type of fence
- How the cost is to be shared

With the notice you should include copies of two quotes showing the cost of constructing the fence.

Give the notice and copies of quotes to your neighbour or send them by registered post.

Your neighbour has one month to respond to the fencing proposal.

### **Resolving Problems:**

The first thing you should do if you have a problem with the dividing fence between you and your neighbour is discuss the issue with them.

### **Resolving Problems Without Legal Action:**

If you and your neighbour cannot resolve the problem then the Justice Department Resolution Centre (<http://www.justice.qld.gov.au>) can provide mediation without legal action. Both you and your neighbour need to be willing to talk and resolve the problem.

For more information visit <http://www.justice.qld.gov.au> website. You can also phone the centre on 07 3239 6007 or 1800 017 288 (toll free).

### **If an Agreement Cannot be Reached:**

If you and your neighbour cannot reach an agreement, the dispute can be taken to:

- Magistrates Court
- Small Claims Tribunal – if you and your neighbour agree to go and the disputed amount is not more than \$1,500.00.

For more information about legal action visit the Department of Justice and Attorney General website. You can also phone the Department on 07 3247 4578.

### **Fencing Legislation (State Government):**

The Queensland Government's *Dividing Fences Act 1953* provides guidelines around setting disputes between neighbours about

- Whether or not a dividing fence should be erected
- What type of fence it should be
- Who should pay for it

You can get a copy of the *Dividing Fences Act 1953* from the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website.

For help understanding the legislation, see the 'avoiding conflict with your neighbour about fences' fact sheet on the department of Justice and Attorney General [www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au) website.

**Boundary Surveying:**

You will need to contact a private land surveyor to survey property boundaries. Council does not provide this service.

Alternatively, you can get a copy of your property's survey plan, which is a plan of the site before any work was carried out on the land. The plan may show your property's dimensions.

Survey plans are available from the Titles Office weekdays between 8.15 am and 5.00 pm. The office is at Level 4, Hayden Centre, 37 South Street, Ipswich.

For more information about boundary surveying visit the Department of Natural Resources and Water website or phone the Titles Office on 07 3884 5300.