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IN SHORT

Brockovich's Qld team

A BRISBANE law firm is working with US environmental crusader Erin Brockovich in a case that reads like a sequel to the Hollywood movie of her life.

Simon Morrison of Shine Lawyers has teamed up with the American to seek compensation for residents who believe they have been poisoned by the Alcoa alumina refinery at Wagerup in Western Australia.

Residents in the Yarloop area near the refinery have complained about nosebleeds, headaches, skin rashes and respiratory and gastrointestinal problems.

Ms Brockovich will examine the merits of a class action suit on behalf of about 160 residents of Yarloop.

Alcoa, the world's leading aluminium producer, has denied the refinery is unsafe saying it has been the subject of independent scientific studies.