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Brief: PARLWA-WA

GM canola gets seat in Parliament

Dead genetically modified canola seed is set to be preserved for posterity in the State's Parliament.

The packet of GM canola seed, which has been sterilised so it won't grow, is to be placed in a time capsule.

It will then rest under the chair of the president of the Legislative Council for the next 50 years to commemorate the refurbishment of the chamber.

Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis, who submitted the GM seed, said that 2010 had historically marked the 'year of choice' for canola growers in WA, being the first year of commercial plantings of the controversial crop.

Mr Ellis also provided a sample of live, conventional canola seed from his family's Bindi Bindi property.

"The GM canola debate has been a

significant issue in the Parliament this year, and it will be interesting for people who become accustomed to GM products over the next half century to remember how it all began," he said.

Monsanto would only allow the GM seed to be provided under strict protocols which was why the GM seed had to be sterilised.

Mr Ellis, who believes growers should have choice on whether to grow the GM canola, said he would speak against the GM disallowance motion in the Upper House when Parliament resumed.



Brian Ellis