



Brian will record his choice in time capsule

By COLIN BETTLES

AGRICULTURAL Region MLC and former Bindi Bindi grain-grower Brian Ellis is taking a more balanced approach to his contribution to the Parliament House time capsule.

Mr Ellis is placing a packet of GM canola seed in the time capsule and a sample of non-GM canola.

He said the GM canola debate had been a significant issue in the Parliament this year.

"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.

"When the capsule is opened 50 years from now, people will

understand this decision was all about giving choice to WA growers.

"The anti-GM lobby is knocking GM but this is all about choice and in the first year there will still be a lot of non-GM canola grown in WA."

Mr Ellis will place the packet of conventional canola seed from his family's farming property near Moora, into the capsule.

The Roundup Ready GM seed packet will be provided by Canola Breeders Western Australia (CBWA).

It has been autoclaved and cannot be propagated.

Sterilisation was undertaken

at UWA to laboratory protocols.

An identical sample is being held at the Agriculture and Food Department.

The GM seed is genetically modified with the Roundup Ready herbicide tolerance trait.

It represents the first commercial plantings of GM canola in WA in 2010.

The year 2010 also represents the first year of release of CB Eclipse RR, the first GM hybrid from CBWA.

Mr Ellis is a third generation graingrower and with his son will plant both conventional and GM canola on the farm in future seasons.

"We're pleased to finally have the option," he said.



□ Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis (centre) at the anti-GM rally held at Parliament House in late February, flanked by anti-GM campaigners Maggie Lillith (left), and Janet Grogan.