



GM canola seed to be placed in Parliament House time capsule

A PACKET of genetically modified (GM) canola seed will be placed in a Parliament House time capsule which will be opened 50 years from now.

The time capsule will be installed under the chair of the President of the Legislative Council to commemorate the refurbishment of the chamber.

The renovations were long overdue and were exacerbated when extra seating was needed as a consequence of the boundary redistribution at the last election.

Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis, who submitted the GM seed,

said this year had been historically marked 'the year of choice' for canola growers in WA.

Mr Ellis also provided a packet of conventional canola seed from his family's farming property at Bindi Bindi, near Moora.

"The GM canola debate has been a significant issue in 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," Mr Ellis said.

The CB Eclipse RR GM seed, which was provided by Canola Breeders WA has been autoclaved and cannot be

propagated.

Sterilisation was undertaken at the University of Western Australia to laboratory protocols and an identical sample is held at the WA Department of Food and Agriculture.

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

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

This year also represents the first year of release of CB Eclipse RR, the first GM hybrid from Canola Breeders.

Mr Ellis, a third generation grain grower whose

son currently cultivates canola on the family farm, said they would plant both conventional and GM canola in future seasons and are pleased to finally have the option.



Canola: Member for the Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis in a crop of non-GM canola.