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Relaxing: Richard Holmes watches while Brett Savage moves the chandelier at McLernon's Auctioneers. Picture: Sandra Jackson

Chamber's old seats of power up for auction

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What secrets were whispered across their burgundy arm rests? What plots were they privy to?

The jarrah and leather bench seats where WA's Upper House MPs sat through so many momentous events are up for sale, offering West Australians a chance to rest their own seat on seats of power.

Chairs and desks from the Legislative Council and a magnificent chandelier are all to be auctioned following renovations to the chamber.

Auction house McLernon's is offering four of the three-seat benches and four four-seaters, which it is believed were installed between 1904 and 1926, most likely during

renovations in the latter year.

One desk has been kept by Parliament House for display. One of its drawers contains the inscription WJ George 1895, the year a member of that name was elected to the Legislative Assembly.

This suggests the desks came from the previous Parliament in St Georges Terrace.

McLernon's auctioneer Richard Holmes says he can see the bench seats in a boardroom, or council chamber or home theatre.

The chandelier, about 50 years old and originally hung in a public building in Egypt, could sell for between \$4000 and \$6000, seats for \$800 to \$1200 each and desks for \$300 to \$500 each. The auction will be held on January 27.