Lithium mining will undoubtedly bring many benefits to the society, such as providing jobs and promoting local economic development, and the produced lithium can also promote the development of clean energy. However, lithium mining will also bring some social challenges.

First of all is the problems about the land ownership. As mentioned by Doris (2016), lithium mining requires the construction of facilities, which requires land. If private lands are occupied, the owners of these lands may need to relocate. However, there may be people who are reluctant to leave the place where they live for a long time. And If the land was originally used for subsistence, they may need to find some other ways to make living. These people need to be compensated appropriately, and the compensations need to meet their long-term needs.

Environmental problems caused by lithium mining may also bring social challenges. The mining industry is likely to cause pollution to the environment, which may affect the health of surrounding residents. Moreover, it will also use a lot of water, which may cause water shortage especially in the western region (Scarlett, 2021). The surrounding residents might be forced to relocate due to these environmental impacts.

Moreover, while benefits to the society, the jobs provided by lithium mining may bring social challenges at the mean time. The development of the mining industry needs lots of labors, which is benefit, but this demand varies with the life cycle of the mine. According to Doris et al. (2018) [2] Lithium mines require the most labor during the construction period, but less labor during subsequent operations. Mining companies need to solve the problem of subsequent labor surplus. And if unskilled workers are employed, the company should also ensure they are trained to understand and comply with safety regulations, otherwise there may be safety hazards and even accidents. In addition, the public usually has high expectations for the jobs created by mining. If this expectation is not met, the company needs to address the disappointment of the public.

In addition, there might be economic impacts. The rapid development of mining may make the local economy overly dependent on it. If the mine is closed for some reason, the local economy may hard to continue developing steadily. Also, how to distribute mining income will also face challenges. The proportion of these incomes used for business investment and regional development and construction needs to be balanced. =======================

The government plays a very important role. They can formulate policies and improve laws about mining and strengthen supervision on these companies. They should also balance the interests of the companies and residents when making decisions. The local government should also develop other types of economy when relying on lithium mines to improve the economy, so as to avoid a single type of economy. For the mining companies, the interests of surplus labors should be considered in advance. At the same time, relevant information should be published to the public so that they can know what is happening.

https://www.stradeproject.eu/fileadmin/user\_upload/pdf/PolicyBrief\_05-2016\_Oct2016\_FINAL.pdf

[1] <https://www.mining-technology.com/features/lithiums-water-problem/>

[2] <https://www.stradeproject.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/STRADE_PB_Li_Co_EMobility.pdf>